Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-067 *10 April 1989*

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Report on COPPPAL Meeting Opens in Ecuador

PA0704134189 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
5 Apr 89 pp 1, 5

[Text] Quito—Commander Tomas Borge met last night with President Rodrigo Borja, with whom he broadly discussed the political situation in Central America and the steps taken by Nicaragua to fulfill the commitments it made in El Salvador.

Borge attended a noon luncheon hosted by Borja for the group of Latin American political leaders who are in Quito for the 14th plenary meeting of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPPAL).

The Ecuadoran president was the main speaker at the meeting's inaugural session, which was attended by representatives from almost 30 Latin American and Caribbean political parties.

At the end of the meeting, a statement on the political and social situation on the continent will be presented.

In his speech at the opening ceremony, President Borja called for increased political party involvement.

Addressing the representatives of 29 political parties from 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries, Borja condemned coups and populism, which, he said, threaten the continent's democracies.

Discussions at the meeting, scheduled to conclude this afternoon, covered the region's political and socioeconomic situation, the most recent elections, and those planned for the near future.

Efren Cocios of Ecuador's Democratic Left Party, to which President Borja belongs, spoke at the inaugural session. He urged the political parties to establish a realistic and unique approach that will allow the region's countries to jointly confront the economic crisis.

Cocios underscored the need to seek alternate paths, strongly criticizing the IMF and the "irresponsible conduct of the developed countries, which are attempting to make us bear the full weight of the crisis."

Panamanian Carlos Ozores, COPPPAL president, called the foreign debt a "political challenge," and he said that "the impact of the debt on democracy is the real crisis."

Some resolutions discussed at the meeting were unofficially disclosed, including the election of Carlos Menem, Justicialist Party candidate to the Argentine Presidency, as one of COPPPAL's vice presidents.

COPPPAL is an organization composed of progressive parties of different ideologies and was created 10 years ago by political leaders such as Panama's Omar Torrijos and Ecuador's Jaime Roldos, both deceased.

In the past 10 years, COPPPAL has supported the peace efforts of the Contadora and Support Groups and it has cooperated with the International Center for Development Policy [name of center rendered in English] to lobby the U.S. Congress against renewing military aid for the counterrevolution.

Similarly, COPPPAL sent multiparty delegations to Chile and Haiti to support both countries' democratic forces. A COPPPAL delegation traveled to the USSR a few months ago to discuss the international and Latin American implications of perestroyka.

The COPPPAL recently began taking formal steps for UN recognition as a combined government organization.

Meeting Ends; Resolution Issued

PA0804042889 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1957 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Quito, 6 Apr (EFE)—The 14th Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties ended last night in Ecuador with a call for Latin American unity and an implicit rejection of the Brady plan.

COPPPAL issued the Pichincha declaration, 18 resolutions, and an action plan, signed by 60 leaders from 23 political parties and 18 regional conference members, who also invited another 38 representatives from 17 parties and organizations from 6 other countries.

The action plan states that "the failed Baker plan, and the more recent Brady plan, are an attempt to avoid dealing with the protests and complaints of the masses." Instead, the plan supports proposals to be made by the Latin American Economic System (SELA) that "differ from the so-called Brady plan."

COPPPAL maintained that the "profound seriousness" of regional problems threatens the progress of democracy, causes a drop in living standards, and provokes "justifiable reactions" by the people, while the international financial institutions and the industrialized nations "widen the gap between themselves and the Third World."

The organization condemned the conditions imposed by multilateral institutions, such as the IMF and the World Bank, in matters relating to debt servicing and the fall in the price of exports from poor countries.

COPPPAL also condemned protectionist measures and the "whimsical manipulation of interest rates, through which they [the multilateral institutions] destroy the readjustment programs that those very same institutions impose [upon debtor nations]."

The Pichincha declaration states that "the democratic, nationalist, revolutionary, socialist, and anti-imperialist parties of COPPPAL" are pleased by the consolidation of democracy and the elections to be held shortly in the region.

Likewise, the organization condemns colonialism, stating that "the lofty goal of Latin American unity must be achieved in the shortest possible time—in any event, before the beginning of the 21st century."

In its resolutions, COPPPAL refers to the situations in Ecuador, Central America, Puerto Rico, Chile, Venezuela, Haiti, Colombia, Panama, Cuba, the Malvinas Islands, Paraguay, and El Salvador.

Regarding Ecuador, the organization supports democratic progress and the government's peace agreements with rebel groups. On the subject of Central America, COPPPAL rejects the decision of the U.S. Government and Congress to continue financing the contras.

COPPPAL supports the decolonization of Puerto Rico, the democratic will of the Chilean people, and, after analyzing the Venezuelan situation, requests that the UN Human Rights Commission "intervene and maintain permanent vigilance to prevent the IMF and the United States from implementing policies that compel governments to adopt measures that harm human rights."

The organization calls upon the Haitian Government to guarantee future elections, condemns violence and the "dirty war" in Colombia, condemns campaigns to stabilize [as received] and destabilize the Panamanian Government, welcomes the end of the isolation imposed upon Cuba, and supports that country's reincorporation into the OAS.

Regarding the Malvinas Islands, COPPPAL condemns the UK's "belligerent attitude," while calling for solidarity with Argentina, and requests the Chilean Government ban servicing the British ferryboat "Indiana II" in Chilean ports. On the subject of Paraguay, the organization calls for the use of international law in the upcoming 1 May elections.

Regarding El Salvador, COPPPAL asked human rights organizations to remain vigilant in light of the "troubling prospects created by the new government's ties to terrorist activities." Nevertheless, the organization called on the incoming Salvadoran Government to work toward a negotiated solution to the military crisis, based on the proposals made by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

The final conclusions include an analysis of the situation in Western Sahara, Southwest Africa, and the Palestinian State, which was also represented at the meeting.

Regarding Western Sahara, COPPPAL called upon the governments of the region to recognize the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR), while expressing its approval of the agreements on Southwest Africa "to end South Africa's racist military aggression against Angola and achieve Namibian independence."

The resolution on the Palestinian state also urges the governments of Latin America to officially recognize its existence.

Summit Scheduled for 15 June in Honduras

PA0404202089 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 4 Apr 89 p 21

[Text] Government spokesman Marco Tulio Romero said yesterday that President Jose Azcona Hoyo has decided not to change the site of the upcoming Central American summit, scheduled to be held on 15 June in the port city of Tela.

The official denied reports from Costa Rica claiming that the cite for the meeting had been changed to Tegucigalpa.

Romero said that the foreign ministers who met in San Jose decided to change only the date of the meeting, postponed until the inauguration of Salvadoran President-elect Alfredo Cristiani.

Romero added that the site known as Villas Telamar has all of the necessary conditions to comfortably host the presidents and their delegations, and that the government is making preparations to ensure that national and international newsmen do not suffer the same inconveniences that they have had to tolerate at previous summits held in other area countries.

Region's Foreign Ministers Meeting Postponed

PA0804031789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0112 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Managua, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry announced today the postponement of a meeting of Central American foreign ministers in Managua to discuss an agreement to fight drug trafficking in the region because Honduras will not attend.

In a communique issued today, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry expressed its regret that the Honduran Government decided not to participate in the meeting scheduled for 10 and 11 April in Managua.

The Sandinist government explained that the Honduran Foreign Ministry had informed Nicaragua of its decision not to attend the meeting "because it still had not named its delegation."

The meeting, summoned by the Esquipulas Agreement Executive Commission on 4 April, was going to base its discussions on a proposal by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

At the Central American presidential summit held in El Salvador on 13 and 14 March, Ortega announced his proposal to fight drug trafficking in the area.

Cuba

163 More Combatants Arrive From Angola

FL0704145989 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] One hundred and sixty-three more Cuban internationalist combatants arrived in the country from Angola last night. Some 4,000 have returned to the fatherland so far, after fulfilling honorably their missions in that country.

Las Tunas Welcome

FL0704205789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1936 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] The people of Las Tunas gave a warm welcome to a group of three internationalists who are natives of the province. The internationalists returned victoriously from the People's Republic of Angola.

The welcoming ceremony, which was held at the Vicente Garcia Park, was characterized by great joy on behalf of family and friends of the internationalists, who were received with cheers and applause for their victory in the brother African nation.

Elpidio Rodriguez, member of the Provincial Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, congratulated the returning internationalists. He told them that they should have the satisfaction of fulfilling their duties. He told the internationalists about Las Tunas' successes in production and defense.

Captain Eulogio Castillo, who proudly showed nine medals on his chest, spoke on behalf of the group, and thanked the people for the ceremony they were given. He also stated the internationalists decision to fulfill any task and to incorporate themselves in developing the province.

21 Return to Santiago

FL0704211289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1953 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] The students, professors, and workers of the Julio Antonio Mella Higher Polytechnical Institute in Santiago de Cuba gave a massive and enthusiastic welcome to the 21 returning internationalist combatants from that province. The internationalists returned after successfully fulfilling their military responsibilities in Angola.

Representing the group, combatants, Janet Bel Sanchez and Maida Berdezi Escalona placed a floral wreath at the foot of Mella's monument. This was done in memory of the noted student revolutionary leader.

Engineer Enrique Maranon, rector of the Julio Antonio Mella Higher Polytechnical Institute, saluted the combatants on behalf of the people and provincial organizations.

Also noted at the ceremony was what was classified as a moment of revolutionary reaffirmation to begin new battles to improve production and defense status of the province.

South African Troops Proceed Toward Namibia

FL0704203289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Although things are calm in Windhoek, the Namibian capital, military operations in north Namibia continue for the 7th consecutive day and the reports on casualties are more frequent.

South African military caravans continue to be seen heading toward the battle area. It is estimated that Pretoria has mobilized at least two units of the so-called Territorial Army and is using members of its regular forces.

According to reports, the number of dead is well over 210. South African and Namibian organizations that support the independence of that territory say that Pretoria's regulars are slaughtering people in the northern area.

South African military operations against members of the South-West People's Organization in north Namibia were condemned by the international journalists' union, said a communique issued in Berlin.

'Urgent' Meeting 8 Apr

FL0704182889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Pik Botha, South African minister of foreign affairs, and General Magnus Malan, minister of defense, today left for Namibia to meet with the UN representatives who are controlling the transition process for Namibia's independence.

The urgency of the meeting is due to a demand from the international community for Pretoria to put an end to the repression in northern Namibia, where during the past 6 days, hundreds of people have died. The actions taken by the racist regime violate UN Resolution 435 and the agreements signed by Angola, Cuba, and South Africa to solve the conflict in southwest Africa. The clashes between South African forces and the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] in the northern town of Ovambo, along with the controversial decisions of the UN representative for that country, endanger the successful fulfillment of the international agreements previously mentioned.

Pik Botha and Magnus Malan will attend an urgent meeting that was called by the joint commission which is composed of Angola, Cuba, and South Africa. The meeting will be held tomorrow in Windhoek, the Namibian capital.

Agreement Termed 'Satisfactory'

FL1004115489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Angola, Cuba, and South Africa have reached an extensive agreement to restore the decolonization process in Namibia. The document was signed by the three nations in Montehoek, some 200 km from Windhoek, Namibia's capital.

The parties reaffirmed their commitment to all of the obligations of the agreement reached on Southwest Africa last December in New York.

The three countries are coordinating the steps to reestablish the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435. This will lead to a state which existed in Namibia until last March.

The agreement was reached during an extraordinary meeting of the joint commission, formed by the three countries, for the checking and control of the signed agreements.

The decolonization process of Namibia had been interrupted this month due to military clashes in the north of that country.

The Cuban spokesman, Alcibiades Hidalgo, said that the approved plan to normalize the situation is a solution which is satisfactory to all the parties.

Diplomat on Gorbachev Visit, Angolan Situation

AU0704173589 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 6 Apr 89 p 4

[Interview with Maria Josefa Suarez, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Cuban Embassy in Sofia, with Lyudmil Totev: "Along the Common Path With Firm Resolve" —date not given]

[Text] At the beginning of this week, Cuba was the center of world politics. Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Havana exceeded the framework of bilateral relations and was regarded as an important new stage in the indefatigable activities of Soviet diplomacy devoted to the struggle for a peaceful and safe world. On this occasion a NARODNA ARMIYA representative interviewed Maria Josefa Suarez, who was kind enough to answer his questions.

[Totev] Comrades Suarez, how do you evaluate Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to your country?

[Suarez] The visit by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to our country is of unprecedented importance in the history of bilateral relations between Cuba and the Soviet Union.

The fact that the Soviet delegation was cordially welcomed by crowds of Cuban people shows the importance of this visit and the strong relations of friendship, fraternal solidarity, and mutual affection based on the traditional principles of mutual respect.

The specific results of the meeting were extremely positive. This is confirmed by the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation that was signed and points out the intentions of pursuing contacts in all spheres between Cuba and the USSR in accordance with the two peoples' fundamental interests. The treaty stressed the two socialist countries' commitment to consolidating fraternal relations and expanding bilateral and multilateral contacts. Their unanimity on international political issues was also evident, and the common will to contribute to the improvement of worldwide relations was avowed again.

The visit totally refuted all the reports of alleged differences of opinions that are supposed to exist between our two countries. It revealed the firm resolve of Cuba and the USSR to make progress along the path of consolidating and developing fraternal relations.

[Totev] Do you think that there are new developments in the White House policy toward Central America?

[Suarez] There is a certain amount of consistency. The "Santa Fe-2" program deals with solutions to various political conflicts in America, which do not exclude U.S. military presence and is included in the framework of the trends which followed the "Santa Fe-1" project. This program states unmistakably that it is in favor of destroying the Sandinist revolution, and describes various methods of struggle against progressive movements in the area. This program is backed by imperialist economic and social interests. The recent agreement between the White House and Congress leaders to grant more financial assistance to the Nicaraguan contras also confirms this. Dangerous plans are being implemented against Panama. Support for repressive and antipeople's governments in the area continues.

[Totev] What are the possibilities in the future of settling the conflict in the south of Africa?

[Suarez] The only possibility of settling this conflict is strict observance of UN Resolution 435 adopted in 1978, and of the agreements signed on Angola.

The process of reconciliation is now being obstructed by the events in the northern part of Namibia. The armed conflicts, in which more then 100 people lost their lives, were evaluated by Robert Mugabe, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, as a "meaningless genocide," and these events are a warning that future complications might follow.

On 4 April Sam Noyoma, leader of the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO], asked the UN Security Council immediately to deploy the seven UN battalions to

guarantee Namibia's peaceful transition to independence. He recalled that Pretoria has stationed six military battalions and numerous military aircrafts on Namibian territory which are used against the SWAPO fighters.

Cuba's stand has always been unmistakable. From the very beginning we stated we were against reducing the UN forces and proposed mutually advantageous solutions likely to safeguard the full implementation of the UN resolution and the existing financial difficulties. In addition, we warned of the danger of reducing the UN forces.

The steps adopted by UN Headquarters are searching for a solution to the conflict, but we should go further than that. In addition, the agreements on Angola should be observed. Cuba has strictly implemented them even ahead of schedule. As you see, the solution to the conflict depends on a serious approach to the implementation of the commitments and the genuine goodwill of all sides involved.

Country Ranks 5th in Trade With USSR

FL0704150589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Soviet foreign trade with socialist countries in 1988 was practically at the same level of the previous year. This trade amounted to 86 billion rubles, 79 billion of them were with CEMA member countries. Cuba ranked fifth in this trade after GDR, Poland, CSSR, and Hungary. Foreign trade between the Soviet Union and Cuba amounted to 7.6 billion rubles.

Scientific Cooperation Agreement With CSSR

PA1004005389 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Cuba's National State Arbitration Body and the CSSR's State Arbitration Office have signed a bilateral scientific and technical cooperation agreement here in Havana. The agreement will establish an exchange program for experts in economic law and will also promote the exchange of information related to trade contracting.

The agreement was signed by Cuban Chief Arbiter Benito Besada and CSSR Chief Arbiter Slavoj Vanek. The Czechoslovak delegation, which has been in Cuba since last Monday, has visited sites of economic and social importance in Cuba's Santiago and Matanzas Provinces.

GDR's Trade Union Organization Delegates Arrive

LD1004082189 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0520 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Havana (ADN)—Harry Tisch, chairman of the National Executive of the GDR Trade Union Organization, the FDGB, and member of the Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee, arrived in Havana Sunday [9 April] evening (local time). He was cordially welcomed at "Jose Marti" Airport by Pedro Ross, secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the organizing committee of the 16th Cuban trade union federation congress. The FDGB delegation, led by Harry Tisch, is to attend the 41st bureau session of the World Federation of Trade Unions which is taking place in the Cuban capital on 11 and 12 April.

Earlier, Tisch visited Nicaragua. On Sunday, at the end of his visit, he held a further meeting with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. The exchange of views focused on international issues, including joint work for peace and disarmament. Earlier, Harry Tisch met Henry Ruiz, member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front national executive and minister of foreign cooperation.

UN Convention Against Drug Trafficking Signed

FL0804175589 Havana Radio Progreso in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Cuba has subscribed to the UN Convention Against the Illegal Traffic in Narcotics and Mind-Control Substances that was signed in Vienna on 20 December of last year.

Oscar Oramas Olivas, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, said his country signed the document as a contribution to the struggle against that scourge that affects many countries. He added that the Cuban Government is always ready to cooperate in the fight against that evil.

COPPPAL Calls for Country's Return to OAS

FL0704151589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] The Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties, known as COPPPAL, has ended in Quito, Ecuador. The conference welcomed the definite end of the isolation imposed by the United States against Cuba. The forum also supported calls in favor of Cuba's return to the OAS. The COPPPAL meeting participants noted that only the broadest Latin American and Caribbean unity will create the conditions for the joint solution of common problems in the region. COPPPAL was created in Mexico 10 years ago and groups over 20 political organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Intensive Care Room Donated to Bolivia

FL0704152789 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Jorge Antelo, Cuban vice minister of public health, arrived in La Paz, Bolivia yesterday. The official will present, on Cuba's behalf, equipment for an intensive care room donated to the Andean country. Right after his arrival in Bolivia, the public health vice minister visited the Ismaelillo intensive care room. This was the first one donated by Cuba to Bolivia. A similar Cuban room is installed in the eastern City of Santa Cruz. Bolivian Health Minister Joaquin Arce will attend the ceremony presenting the room representing President Victor Paz Estenssoro.

Human Rights Party Members Arrested

FL0704141589 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] In Havana, at least 21 people have been arrested in the wake of Soviet President Gorbachev's visit to Havana. Those arrested had planned to take part in a rally in support of the Gorbachev reforms at the Soviet Embassy in Havana. Among those arrested was the organizer of the rally, Samuel Martinez Lara, who is the leader of the pro-Human Rights Party.

Man Arrested for Stealing Car Parts

FL0704201089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] PNR [National Revolutionary Police] agents carried out a house search and later arrested citizen Juan Carlos Quinones Gonzalez, who lives in Parcelacion Moderna neighborhood in Arroyo Narranjo Municipality.

As a result of the search, it was confirmed that this citizen was involved in an armed theft at a store located in (Calzado de Ullanoi) and Linea del Ferrocarril, 10 October Municipality.

The PNR found in the house mufflers, spark plugs, brake cables, fenders, exhaust pipes, and many other car parts.

Facing the evidence of the crime, Juan Carlos Quinones Gonzales, admitted his guilt, and his statement showed that his motive was profit.

Barbados

Haitian Situation Discussed With Jamaican

FL0804161589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1351 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 8, CANA—The troubled situation in Haiti was among the talking points when Barbados Foreign Minister Maurice King and Jamaica's minister of state in the Foreign Ministry, Dr Lucille Mair, met here Friday.

Matters pertaining to the Caribbean Community and the Organisation of American States were also discussed, said a statement from the Foreign Ministry, which did not give details.

The military government of President Prosper Avril has been trying to suppress a revolt in which up to 12 soldiers have died this week in clashes between presidential guards and rebel troops.

The rebels, who accuse Avril of trying to reimpose dictatorship in Haiti and of arbitrarily firing military officers, have been demanding his resignation since an abortive coup last Sunday.

Haiti

Rebellion in Port-au-Prince 'Unresolved'

State of Emergency Continues

PA0704134989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1018 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 7 Apr (EFE)—The rebellion by soldiers opposed to Haitian President General Prosper Avril's military regime continues unresolved.

The mutinous Leopards Corps commandos, joined on Thursday [6 April] by the Dessalines Battalion, are obstinately demanding Gen Avril's resignation and have taken positions around the Presidential Palace and the Dessalines Battalion headquarters.

Some members of the 900-man Dessalines Battalion supported a negotiated solution to the conflict, but the situation worsened when the Leopards Corps, which has 450 troops, refused, according to observers.

Dessalines Battalion spokesmen are demanding the designation of a civilian president and have proposed Supreme Court President Gilbert Austin.

They have also requested that the Constitution be respected and that general elections be scheduled in the short term.

The situation in the country continues to be tense and the state of emergency decreed over the weekend when the battalion failed in an attempted coup is still in force.

Although the Haitian president said on Thursday that everything is under control, Port-au-Prince has been the cite of clashes, and gunshots can be heard in the streets.

At dawn today, the presidential guards, 1,100 men from the only military detachment in the country that has armored vehicles, destroyed Radio Liberty's shortwave and modulated frequency stations, its director Serge Beaulieu reports.

Beaulieu said the attackers beat the watchman and shot and wounded an employee. Beaulieu, whose stations are critical of the government, said that Radio Metropol and Radio International Antilles were also attacked. [passage omitted]

6 Reportedly Killed in Clash

FL0704125589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Apr 89

[From "Hot Off the Press" section of "Morning Magazine" by Daniel Torres]

[Text] Haiti continues to experience a lot of tension. News reports are confusing and fractioned, however, well informed sources reported this morning that the

calls made by Prosper Avril, the current Haitian head of state, were not heard by the rebels and that the Dessalines Battalion continued to rebel. Also, a group of commanders called Leopards, an elite Haitian troop of some 3,000 forces that are against President Avril's presence.... [change thought] The city continues under a state of emergency. Tanks are patrolling the streets.

Radio Soleil, a Catholic radio station—which as a matter of fact was taken off the air during the early morning hours today as a result of an action taken by the Avril government against 43 radio stations that had not complied with media censorship—before it was taken off the air, reported clashes between soldiers and the people and that six were killed. Later, Radio Haiti-Inter—another radio station, a state station whcih in this case I was able to monitor—was also talking about six dead and another civilian who was killed by unknown groups.

Everything seems to indicate my friends that the situation in Port-au-Prince is extremely tense this morning after a failed coup attempt last week. However, this rebellion continues and the Army is absolutely divided. This is what can be inferred from very obscure, confusing, and fractioned reports we have received from Haiti.

It is said that President Prosper Avril is going to attempt to deliver another message this morning to convince the rebel soldiers to return to their barracks so that he can continue as head of the country. Nevertheless, close to 3,000 forces—which as a matter of fact were perpetrating bloody acts the previous night by shooting in Port-au-Prince neighborhoods—have simply refused to let Mr Prosper Avril continue being president of this, lets say, dramatic Caribbean country that has faced a collapse from the political, social, and economic point of view in the last few years.

Havana Reports Clashes Continue

FL0704145789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1406 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] In the midst of the confusing situation that still prevails in Haiti, after the coup attempt this weekend, shooting was reported this morning between members of the elite battalion known as Leopards and the Presidential Guards.

During the clash, two military persons died and one Leopard was injured. Afterward, another shooting occurred in the Delmas neighborhood, east of Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital. However, other reports show that four persons died in the clashes between Leopards and the personal guards of the head of the regime, General Prosper Avril.

Early Monday morning Avril announced that a military coup attempt had been thwarted. Haitian sources confirmed that those involved in the coup belong to the Leopards. Although the regime announced that order had been restored, ever since then, armed clashes have been taking place, especially in the capital.

Rebels Demand Avril Step Down

FL0704175489 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1513 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Monitored in progress]

[Text]... Here is a message from the Episcopal Conference of Haiti [CEH] issued today, 7 April 1989. Here is the bishops' statement:

Four radio stations have been damaged. People don't know what is happening in Haiti. This is a violation of everyone's right to information.

Some soldiers have come to Radio Soleil. They say they are here in the names of the commanders of the Dessalines Barracks and the Leopards Corps. They have come to give their opinion on the country's situation. They have come to announce that there was no understanding reached in connection with the talks that took place between the Dessalines Barracks and the Presidential Guard.

That was the statement of the Haitian bishops.

Well, the Dessalines Barracks soldiers have denied the statements General Prosper Avril made over Voice of America [VOA] Thursday afternoon. Gen Avril had said that the palace soldiers were ready to reconcile with the Dessalines Barracks soldiers. In a statement the Dessalines Barracks soldiers have made over Radio Soleil, they ask the general to step down and turn the government over to the president of the Court of Cassation.

[Begin unidentified soldier recording] We have come here to the station to deny a statement made by Gen Avril yesterday over VOA. He said the Dessalines Barracks battalion had decided to abandon the struggle so as to unite with the Presidential Guard. That is a big lie, a big lie—for we know that the battalion is maintaining its decision firmly. It is still demanding only one thing: for Gen Avril to leave the country so that he can be replaced by the president of the Court of Cassation; for the the Constitution to be restored in its entirety; and for unfettered, honest elections to be held within the next 120 days.

This statement we are making here is not just from the Dessalines Barracks battalion. It is from the Leopards Corps too, for before coming here to the radio station to send it out over the air we obtained the complete agreement of the commander of the Leopards Corps.

Although Gen Avril has been talking about democracy since coming to power, what have we ourselves noted? We know that in a democracy all freedoms should be guaranteed. And what have we noted? Yesterday Gen Avril,

together with the director of Conatel [Conseil National de Telecommunications, National Telecommunications Council] decided to shut down all the radio stations.

Since he does not want to have any problems with the church, he allowed Radio Soleil to continue operating. So, we are asking the high-ranking Army generals, the generals who came to the Dessalines Barracks yesterday, to take all the necessary measures to save the country from the situation it is in, because all we ourselves know is that we are all members of the Armed Forces. We have a specific mission: to defend our fatherland—the lives and property of the people of this country, not the interests of a single person.

While Gen Avril is struggling to achieve the unity of the Army, what did we notice yesterday on Delmas Road? That he authorized the Presidential Guard soldiers—armed with heavy equipment [engins lourdes]—to fire on the Leopards. What was the result of this clash? Twelve Leopards died.

So, what we know is that those pieces of heavy equipment that people call tanks that are circulating constantly, well, the soldiers are not authorized to fire on people with them—not under any circumstances. You can fire them in a war situation, but not against people, just against enemy installations. So, in order to remain in power, Gen Avril is continuing to commit war crimes. Thus we ourselves—the Dessalines Barracks and Leopards Corps Battalions—are asking only one thing: for Gen Avril to depart [ale], and we are very adamant about this, if he does not want a direct clash.

Under the coalition that has already been formed between the Dessalines Barracks and the Leopards Corps:

Signed: The Dessalines Barracks Battalion and Leopards Corps Battalion. [end recording]

The time is 1119 in the Radio Soleil studios.

Soleil Confirms Attacks

FL0704181789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1513 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The antennas of four radio stations were hit yesterday afternoon. Some of the stations had people wounded, and their antennas have been totally trashed.

First, Radio Haiti-Inter: We contacted the director of this radio, who informed us that some 20 soldiers in uniforms and helmets attacked their transmitters on the [Cul de Sac] plain. This happened yesterday afternoon, according to the report the watchman made to the director of the radio station during the curfew. Thus, apparently the sabotage occurred before the curfew went into effect at 1900 yesterday.

Second, Radio Metropole, which has two groups of antennas, one in the vicinity of Fort Dimanche and the other in Boutilliers: According to several Radio Metropole employees we contacted, a group of soldiers first cut off FM. They said that it was a group of soldiers who put the FM antenna out of commission. Later, they said, the AM one, which is located near Fort Dimanche, stopped transmitting. Thus, it too has a problem.

Despite all the calls made to the watchman at the Fort Dimanche transmitter—and despite the fact that he carries a walkie-talkie—the watchman has never answered. [passage omitted]

Radio Antilles Internationales has also been silent since yesterday. It went off the air between 1400 and 1500. A member of the station's personnel we contacted told us that the watchman, who had been subjected to heavy pressure and who had a gun held to his head, had said that it was palace soldiers who entered the antenna site on the Cul-de-Sac plain, behind Hampo [a meat-packing company], and that they carted away some transmitting material.

Soldiers totally trashed the transmitter of Radio Liberte, on the Bicentennaire. They also put the radio's antennas, located in Boutilliers, out of commission. Radio employee Antoines Jean-Juste, the security guard, was hurt. He was clubbed with billy clubs and rifle butts.

Police To Issue Curfew Pass

FL0704192789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1513 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] We have received a press release from the Port-au-Prince police, which says: Following the Interior Ministry communique establishing a curfew throughout the metropolitan area, the Port-au-Prince police have announced that they will give people who must move about because of an emergency a laissez-passer to enable them to circulate freely throughout the capital and its environs.

The police ask everyone who needs such a laissez-passer to come in person to the Army General Headquarters with identification documents to comply with the formalities.

That, then, is a press release from the general headquarters of the Port-au-Prince police.

Port-au-Prince 'Paralyzed'

FL0704194289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1513 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Now we are going to hear from Morisson [Charles, Soleil journalist] about what the situation is like in the streets of Port-au-Prince today.

[Charles—live] Well, for the time being, Port-au-Prince remains paralyzed. There is no activity whatsoever. Stores, government offices, and schools are still not

open. Public transportation is almost totally paralyzed. Only along the Petion-Ville road can you find two or three public transportation vehicles. [passage omitted]

Today, Friday, [7 April] you see a few little groups of people standing around on a few corners, watching to see what is going to happen. There are many patrols in the streets. Pickup trucks and little jeeps jam-packed with soldiers armed with heavy-caliber weapons are patrolling all streets in Port-au-Prince and all the roads to Petion-Ville. [passage omitted]

We point out that the situation in the provincial towns is the same as it was at the beginning of the week. For example, it is reported from Les Cayes and Cap-Haitien that schools and commerce are operating and all activities are normal. We also contacted correspondents in other towns such as Jacmel. Our correspondents told us the situation has remained normal in these towns.

Radio Soleil 'Still Alive'

FL0704202589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1856 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Four radio stations were hit yesterday afternoon, 6 April. For the time being, Radio Soleil remains one of the rare radio stations still alive. A military team from the Dessalines Barracks came to the radio this morning. They have been occupying the premises since this morning. They made a statement giving their point of view on the current situation in Haiti. They also denied certain statements made by General Avril in an interview he granted the VOA [Voice of America] yesterday, 6 April. [passage omitted]

Armed Civilians Join Leopards

FL0704203589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1856 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The streets of Port-au-Prince are practically deserted today, Friday. [passage omitted] There were a few public transportation vehicles on the Petion-Ville road this morning, but there are also people splitting tires of other people's cars to prevent them from moving in several parts of the capital. The Delmas Road is totally blocked. Delmas cannot be entered at all. There are a few groups of people at a couple of intersections, watching to see what is going on. However, in general, there is no activity in the streets.

In the Petion-Ville area, armed civilians appeared today at the side of the Leopard Corps soldiers, who were sowing panic by firing off many rounds from automatic weapons into the air. Witnesses say that these civilians were forcing residents to go into their houses and were also taking private citizens' vehicles.

For the time being, no one knows if these armed civilians are Leopards without uniforms or civilians in solidarity with the Leopards Corps soldiers. The Leopards also fired off several rounds in Petion-Ville and forced merchants to close their stores.

Also, an Air Corps spokesman told AFP that the Air Corps is remaining neutral in this crisis. Yesterday, the Navy too made a statement to AFP, to the same effect. The Navy said it was remaining neutral in the current situation in Haiti.

Situation in Gonaives, Jacmel

FL0704211089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1856 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Now let's take a look at the provinces. Yesterday morning, Gonaives awakened to barricades in the street. [passage omitted]

Today, 7 April, everything is functioning normally. Journalists from Radio Independence in Gonaives are protesting the sabotage of several radio stations in Port-au-Prince. They ask that these radios be indemnified.

[Begin correspondent's report—live or recorded] [Passage omitted] Yesterday, at around 0900, many tires were set on fire in Raboteau, De Chayo, and (Bo Mache A). A wind of panic began to blow over Gonaives. People began running. Parents rushed to get their children at several schools. Several schools also let their students out and shut down.

Many people thought there was going to be an antigovernment demonstration. However, prefect Guy Latortue explained, in a speech over Radio Independence Nouvelle, the cause of this panic.

[Begin Latortue recording] [Passage omitted] I found out it was because of Envie, who is in jail. He is a young man who plays soccer very well on Gonaives' team. He is in jail because of an argument he had with public prosecutor Jean-Louis. [passage omitted] [end recording]

A few minutes after the prefect's speech, a group of demonstrators went to Radio Independence Nouvelle and also spoke. One of them said the prefect's statement was a lie and explained why tires were burning.

[Begin unidentified demonstrators recording] [Passage omitted] We demonstrated in order to get rid of Avril, because we hate him. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The situation returned to normal a few hours later, at about 1300. Schools also functioned yesterday afternoon.

Today, Friday, [7 April] there is total calm in town. All schools, the marketplace, and public and private offices are functioning normally in Gonaives. [passage omitted] [end Gonaive's correspondent report]

In Jeremie, all activity is normal. However, there have been pamphlets circulating in town. These pamphlets have a picture of Charlemagne Peralte on them, as well as a message for the population. People there are also following the news closely.

Rebels, Presidential Guard Clash

PA0704231889 Madrid EFE in Spanish
2232 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 7 Apr (EFE)—A Haitian Government source today reported that at least 12 "Leopards," who oppose the regime of General Prosper Avril, were killed and another badly wounded in a confrontation with the Presidential Guard.

The "Leopards" Corps and the "Dessalines" Battalion have been rebelling against Gen Avril's military government since last weekend, when the Dessalines Battalion's attempted coup failed.

Meanhile, the situation in Port-au-Prince remains tense. There have been numerous incidents between the various Army factions, some of which are backed by armed civilians.

Armed civilians, who appeared with the "Leopards" for the first time today, created panic in Petion-Ville, a neighborhood located 8 km from the capital, by firing into the air, searching privately-owned vehicles, and forcing people to leave the streets and shops, several witnesses reported.

According to other reports, the Leopards reportedly mined Delmas Road, east of Port-au-Prince, to obstruct armored Presidential Guard vehicles, while armed soldiers escorted official vehicles traveling southwest of Port-au-Prince.

A Dessalines Battalion soldier described the clashes as "war crimes" and again demanded Gen Avril's departure. He also said Gen Avril should be replaced by current Supreme Court President Gilbert Austin, and he demanded the reestablishment of the Constitution and the holding of general elections.

The same source denied Gen Avril's statements that the various Army factions would reach an agreement.

According to presidential palace sources, Gen Avril, who has received the official support of the U.S. Government, told the U.S. ambassador to Haiti in Port-au-Prince today that he had "nothing to do" with the incidents.

The same sources added that negotiations with both the Dessalines Battalion and the Leopards continue.

The increasing number of incidents forces us to expect a possible negotiated solution among the Leopards—a group of approximately 450 men—the Dessalines Battalion—about 900 soldiers—and the 1,000-man Presidential Guard.

Avril's Wife at Unknown Embassy

PA0804004889 Madrid EFE in Spanish
2242 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 7 Apr (EFE)—[Passage omitted] Diplomatic sources in this capital reported today that Prosper Avril's wife took refuge at an undisclosed embassy because of the chaos that prevails in the country since the foiled coup attempt on Sunday.

Most of the capital's streets are blocked by barricades and burning tires. The Presidential Guard reportedly remains stationed at the Haitian Presidency protecting President Avril.

Several antiaircraft weapons and at least four armored vehicles were placed outside the Presidency. [passage omitted]

"Dessalines" Battalion soldiers seized the Catholic Church-owned Radio Soleil this morning.

"Dessalines" soldiers said they seized the radio station to protect it and to broadcast messages to the people since the Avril government destroyed most of the radio stations.

Around and inside Radio Soleil, several heavily armed "Leopard" soldiers were seen carrying antitank grenades. [passage omitted]

Clashes Near Presidential Palace

PA0804023989 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0147 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 7 Apr (EFE)—Forces loyal to Haitian President General Prosper Avril and rebel forces were involved in heavy clashes around the presidential palace tonight.

According to reports in this capital, there is heavy fighting involving both heavy and light weaponry.

Forces loyal to Gen Avril apparently tried to attack the Dessalines Battalion's rioting soldiers, who have requested Avril's resignation.

According to reports by eyewitnesses at the Holiday Inn, at least one armored vehicle moved across the square in front of the Presidential Palace toward the positions taken by members of the rioting battalion and shot at them. A few minutes later, gunfire was heard.

Rebels 'May Have Surrendered'

PA0804030589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0222 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 7 Apr (EFE)—According to some Haitian military and civilian sources, most of the soldiers who rebelled against President Prosper Avril may have surrendered a few hours ago to the Presidential Guard.

Forces loyal to the Haitian president, apparently led by Presidential Guard Commander Colonel Cristopher Dardompre, began a military operation against the "Dessalines" Battalion rebels, who were asking for Avril's resignation.

Fighting apparently began at 2340 when an armored vehicle crossed the square in front of the presidential palace toward the "Dessalines" soldiers and fired its cannon.

According to reports in this capital, the ensuing fighting became more fierce as heavy and light weaponry was used.

Eyewitnesses who are staying at the Holiday Inn said at least one armored vehicle crossed the square toward the positions taken by the rebel soldiers and fired. A few minutes later, gunfire and at least a dozen cannon blasts were heard.

Loyal Forces Attack Battalion

PA0804131589 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0653 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 7 Apr (REUTER)—Sources close to the military, report that today troops loyal to Haitian President General Prosper Avril launched an apparently successful attack on the rebel Dessalines Battalion garrison.

Members of the Presidential Guard, the most powerful Haitian military unit, attacked, with a light tank, the rebel forces' garrison, located next to the presidential palace. There are indications that the number of casualties is high.

Haitians listening to shortwave radio accounts of the attack said that after several charges, many of the soldiers had surrendered.

Speaking on the government-owned Radio Nationale, William Fougere, head of the Haitian Red Cross, announced that ambulance services and other vehicles were required and that the attack had resulted in a large number of casualties.

Diplomatic sources maintained that artillery fire, which could be heard throughout the city, had hit residential areas near the garrisons and that many civilians were wounded. A diplomat told REUTER: "This is a disaster."

Sources close to the military said that they believed that after the fighting around the Dessalines Battalion barracks, members of the Presidential Guard had begun to move toward the Leopards Corps garrison.

However, after more than 3 hours of intense fighting, there was a lull in the clashes, and there was no indication that fighting had broken out elsewhere. [passage omitted]

Several Dozen Injured

FL0804121789 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1103 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Several dozen civilians were injured early this morning in the densely populated Carrefour Figuier neighborhood in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as a result of the Presidential Guard's firing of howitzers at the headquarters of the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Battalion, which has demanded the resignation of General Prosper Avril, head of the current regime.

Eyewitnesses have reported that many victims were admitted to the military hospital in Port-au-Dessalines. No official number of dead or wounded has been released, but the government has requested assistance from the International Red Cross, according to a civilian source.

40 Rebels Reported Dead

FL0804125489 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1238 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Fighting continues in Haiti between rebel soldiers and troops loyal to President Prosper Avril. Both sides are said to be using tanks, artillery, and machine guns. Forty of the rebels are reported dead in fighting last night at their barracks near the presidential palace in Port-au-Prince. Fighting is also going on in other parts of the capital. There were reports of a cease-fire being reached overnight last night, but those are unconfirmed.

The clashes follow last Sunday's coup attempt against Mr Avril's government.

Avril 'in Control' of Palace

FL0804135889 Havana Tele-Rebelde in Spanish 1312 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] At least 12 members of the select Leopards Battalion have been killed in confrontations with the Presidential Guard, while Haitian head of state General Prosper Avril apparently remains in control of the National Palace.

The soldiers were killed on Thursday on the Delmas Highway that leads to the town of the same name and links Port-au-Prince with the city of Petion-Ville.

It has also been reported that several civilians and soldiers have been injured and taken to the Army hospital.

In diplomatic circles in the Haitian capital, it was learned that Avril's wife has taken refuge in an unidentied embassy, in view of the chaos prevailing in the country since the foiled coup attempt on Sunday.

Doubts of Avril's Control

FL0804155389 Havana Radio Reloj in Spanish 1428 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Constant internal clashes have obviously given the lie to reiterated statements by supporters of General Prosper Avril, head of the military regime, that he is in control of the situation in the country. The Haitian ambassador to the Dominican Republic has said that Avril has the necessary resources to control the situation but, in the ambassador's opinion, the general is trying to avoid a bloodbath.

Heavy shooting and explosions were heard this morning and international news agencies have all reported continuous skirmishes between the main opposition group, the Leopards, and the Dessalines Battalion, which supports [as heard] Avril.

The ambassador claims that the rebels want to return the country to the Duvalier era. We ask: Has the Avril government made any changes on behalf of that nation's people?

Official spokesmen report today that amid a curfew established since Wednesday [5 April], the general unrest, and the increasing gunfire, Gen Avril remains entrenched in his palace.

An EFE report cites Avril as saying that the chaos might lead to a military invasion by the United States similar to that of 1915, although he did not explain whether Washington has exerted pressure of any kind against the head of that long-suffering Caribbean nation.

The fact is, as foreign sources have stated, the upheaval in the country is limited to the military leadership, and the people have not been involved in any of the activities.

Gen Prosper Avril came to power in September after a military coup. He has offered a return to democracy, but so far has done nothing to comply.

'Sporadic Firing' Heard

FL0804183589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1803 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Only sporadic firing has been heard in Haiti in the past few hours. Troops loyal to Haitian head of state Prosper Avril said today that they have subdued and dominated the rebel soldiers who for the past week have been trying to overthrow the present government in that country.

In the past few hours, only sporadic firing has been heard in several parts of the Haitian capital, but sources consulted by the press have indicated that this firing is a part of maneuvers to intimidate and warn the pockets of rebels that apparently still exist.

The Presidential Guard launched an attack on the headquarters of the Dessalines Battlion, beside the Government Palace, and has carried out containment operations at the barracks of the Leopards, forces which are still in rebellion and are demanding the withdrawal of Avril and the scheduling of elections.

The United States, which has announced its unconditional support for Avril, has made a renewal of its financial aid to Haiti contingent upon the adoption of specific measures against drug trafficking.

Government Wants Talks

PA0804222489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2109 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 8 Mar (EFE)—Fighting between the "Leopards" military command and the Presidential Guard continues this afternoon. Gunfire can still be heard in the area surrounding the presidential palace, where Haitian President Prosper Avril is reportedly staying.

There has been no information yet on the number of casualties from the fighting that began last night.

In one of three communiques broadcast today on national radio, the Haitian Government asked for the Red Cross' help in taking care of the many Presidential Guards' men who wounded in the fighting.

The three communiques issued and signed by the Information and Coordination Ministry stated that the rebels plan to reestablish a dictatorship.

In its first communique, the Haitian Government referred to the current crisis the country is experiencing and asked all sectors of society in this Caribbean country to help control the rebels.

The government also asked the rebel soldiers for a cease-fire to begin a dialogue.

In the communique, the government also asks the Dominican Government to order the deportation of Roger Lafontant, who is in exile in the Dominican Republic.

The Haitian Government communique describes Lafontant as one of the brains behind the activities of the rebels, who are clashing with the government troops who are defending the presidential palace.

Soldiers loyal to President Avril were defending only the presidential palace this afternoon. They have not carried out security patrols on the streets leading to the palace today.

Meanwhile, shots were fired at a group of French newsmen who were trying to reach the military hospital to determine the number of casualties that have resulted from the fighting. A civilian standing behind the newsmen was wounded.

According to reports, the newsmen never reached the hospital.

Only curiosity seekers have been seen on the streets of Port-au-Prince, and the windows of many vehicles have been smashed by bullets or rocks.

It has also been reported that certain streets, and in particular the road that leads to the "Leopards'" camp, have been mined.

Rebel Barracks Seized

PA0804220189 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2138 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 8 Apr (REUTER)—The Haitian Government announced today that troops loyal to the government have taken over the Dessalines Battalion, which was held by soldiers who rebelled against the government on Tuesday [4 April].

"The Information and Coordination Ministry announces that troops of the Presidential Guard now occupy the Dessalines Barracks. Let us honor their bravery," says a communique read over national radio.

Church Wants Cease-Fire

PA0804230289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2157 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Report by Michel Lamisere]

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 8 Apr (EFE)—This afternoon, Haiti's Catholic Church asked for an end to the fighting between troops loyal to President Prosper Avril and the rebel soldiers in Port-au-Prince so that negotiations to end the armed conflict can begin.

The Haitian Catholic Church, in a communique broadcast on church-owned Radio Soleil, supported the request made earlier in the day by the Avril government, which offered the rebels a cease-fire in order to negotiate.

It added that reports from several news media indicating troops loyal to Avril had occupied and partially destroyed the "Dessalines" barracks with cannon fire "are totally untrue."

In addition, the communique reported that the rebels' "Dessalines" Battalion barracks are intact and that the rebels destroyed part of the roof of the presidential palace, where Avril presumably remains.

The Catholic Church stated that the cease-fire was needed to help the wounded. The Haitian Government had made a similar request a few hours earlier through the national radio. The government asked the Haitian Red Cross to help in taking care of the many National Guardsmen wounded in the fighting.

The Catholic Church communique also stated that the number of dead and wounded is not known and stressed no side can claim victory in the fighting. The people of Haiti have not been caught up in the fighting, and many are leaving the areas where the fighting is taking place. Today at dusk, artillery and automatic weapon fire and grenade explosions were heard in Port-au-Prince. Soldiers have been seen running through the streets and firing their weapons near the National Palace. Few people are on the streets of the capital, and many vehicles and buildings show battle scars from the fighting.

"Dessalines" Battalion soldiers have been involved in clashes against forces loyal to Avril that began Friday evening. However, some sources say that members of "The Leopards" and the Haitian Navy have also participated in the fighting.

Today, through the Catholic Church, the rebel soldiers again demanded that Gen Avril resign and leave the country and that he be replaced by Supreme Court President Gilbert Austin.

The rebels also called for the full restoration of the Constitution—from which Avril repealed 36 articles—and national elections within 120 days.

Meanwhile, the Haitian Government today accused Roger Lafontant, former minister of the Duvalier regime, of leading the rebels from the Dominican Republic, where he has resided since being deported from Haiti.

The government added that Lafontant is trying to destabilize the government of Gen Avril from the Dominican Republic and accused Haitian exiles linked to deposed leader Jean-Claude Duvalier of planning the foiled coup d'etat.

The Haitian Government even accused Lafontant of organizing a meeting in Miami during which an agreement was reached to organize the rebel movement that began a week ago. [passage omitted]

Army Communique Read

PA0804232889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2257 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 9 Apr (EFE)—The Haitian Government announced today that troops loyal to President Prosper Avril have seized the barracks that served as the stronghold of the soldiers who rebelled in Port-au-Prince on Tuesday [4 April].

A communique read over the official station "Radio Nationale" said: "The Information Ministry announces that members of the Presidential Guard have occupied the barracks of the Dessalines Battalion."

The communique added that "all of the men detained will be treated with dignity and according to the laws of the Haitian Armed Forces," and pointed out that although a majority of the rebels were arrested, some of them "managed to flee, leaving their weapons and uniforms behind."

This communique was read by Army Adjutant General Andre Jean Pierre at 2115 GMT, following several hours of intense fighting.

The communique also appealed to "everyone to help restore constitutional order" and then praised the courage of the forces loyal to Gen Avril who took part in the fighting.

After the communique was aired, sporadic gunfire was heard—possibly shots fired into the air by celebrating government troops.

The Haitian Government did not give any information on casualties sustained by either of the two sides in the military operation that began Friday [7 April] night.

According to the Catholic Church's Radio Soleil, three civilians were killed in the cross fire, and a doctor at a Haitian hospital said that at least eight soldiers had been admitted with wounds of varying severity.

Nevertheless, military sources confirmed that 17 rebels were killed in the clashes since they began Friday night and that the Presidential Guard had sufferred 15 casualties.

No communique has mentioned the situation at the barracks of the "Leopard" special troops, who began the rebellion following an aborted coup attempt last weekend. The "Leopard" barracks are located in a hilly area in the capital's suburbs.

Government Imposes Curfew

PA0904002889 Madrid EFE in Spanish
2350 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 8 Apr (EFE)—The government of Haitian President Prosper Avril today claimed that it had put down the rebellion by soldiers of the Dessalines Battalion following 2 days of intense fighting in downtown Port-au-Prince.

A communique read by General Andre Jean-Pierre over the official Radio Nationale said that "the soldiers of the Presidential Guard have occupied the Dessalines barracks," located close to Avril's National Palace. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic sources here, however, doubt that the government has effective control over all of the military and did not rule out the possibility that some members of the "Leopard" special military unit might attempt another armed attack on Avril.

A diplomat who asked not to be identified said, "The situation is so unstable that anything might happen."

For the time being, the number of casualties from the clashes is not known, and soldiers fire shots into the air whenever civilians or newsmen try to get close to the combat areas or the hospitals. [passage omitted]

Immediately after the government communique was read, a curfew was imposed in Port-au-Prince. The streets are deserted and only military patrols are circulating. [passage omitted]

Port-au-Prince 'Calm'

PA1004015589 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0007 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 9 Apr (EFE)—The situation in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, was calm this morning, a week after a coup attempt against Haitian President Prosper Avril was foiled and after a number of clashes between the Presidential Guard and soldiers demanding the leader's resignation.

According to a spokesman of General Hospital in Port-au-Prince, approximately 30 soldiers and 5 civilians have been killed as a result of the coup attempt and about 30 people have been wounded.

The armed members of the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Battalion, who are continuing their rebellion against Avril, are now dispersed among the population following the Presidential Guard attack on their headquarters.

Meanwhile, members of the Leopards Battalion, who kept troops loyal to the Avril government busy for 2 days while demanding the release of their leaders who were responsible for last Sunday's coup attempt, told reporters visiting their headquarters today that they will surrender only if no reprisals are taken against them.

The Leopards reportedly have said that they will surrender if they are guaranteed that they will not be dismissed or transferred from their positions.

Moreover, there is great uncertainty regarding the fate of President Avril, who has claimed a victory despite the fact that he is only supported by the Presidential Guard, which controls only the area surrounding the presidential palace.

The streets of Port-au-Prince—capital of the poorest country in the hemisphere—are completely empty. The siren announcing the beginning of the curfew has not been heard tonight.

This morning, foreign correspondents covering the incidents were threatened with death by the Presidential Guard when they tried to enter the palace, even though they had official permission to do so.

President Avril was scheduled to give a news conference today at 1600, but the Haitian Information and Coordination Ministry has postponed the news conference until 1000 [1500 GMT] tomorrow, 10 April, at the National Palace. After today's death threats from the military, however, most journalists doubt they will attend the news conference.

The Presidential Guard has sabotaged four [radio and television] stations. The only broadcasts being aired are those from government radio and television stations, Catholic and Evangelic radio stations, and "Radio Plus," which only broadcasts music and advertisements.

Government Lifts Censorship

PA1004023589 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0122 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 9 Apr (REUTER)—Haiti's military government today lifted the ban imposed on the media and reduced the length of the curfew. These measures seem to indicate that the government is consolidating its power despite a persistent insurrection at a military unit in Port-au-Prince.

An official declaration stated, "The 5 April communique ordering the media to release only information authorized by the government is no longer in effect."

The declaration added that the curfew, which was previously 11 hours long, will now be in effect only between 2100 and 0500.

The government measure seems to indicate that military leader Prosper Avril is confident of having consolidated power after a 19-hour operation on Friday and Saturday to put down a rebellion staged by the Dessalines Battalion using artillery, machinegun and small weapons fire.

The Catholic station Radio Soleil, the main independent station still on the air, said 30 soldiers and 4 civilians were killed in the clashes near the Dessalines Battalion headquarters. It added that 15 soldiers and some 20 civilians were wounded in these clashes.

In a communique, the government accused the rebels of sabotaging other independent radio stations, which have been off the air since Friday. However, local journalists have reported that government troops closed down the stations because they did not comply with the censorship order. [passage omitted]

President Increases Credit to Government Workers

PA0704211489 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 30 Mar 89 p 5

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari told civil servants Wednesday that the government would increase funding for short- and medium-term loans to government employees by as much as 30 percent from Saturday.

The president spoke at the close of a 2-day congress of the Federation of Unions at the Service of the State (FSTSE), during which Rafael de Jesus Lozano Contreras of the Federal District Union was elected to a 3-year term as secretary general of the 2 million-member federation.

Salinas told the audience, in reference to talks on the renegotiation of Mexico's foreign debt, "if we continue with a spirit of unity and maturity, the day will not be far off when the nation vigorously transforms its social and economic development pattern to benefit all Mexicans concretely, and especially those who need it most."

The campaign for FSTSE secretary general lasted less than two months. Lozano Contreras announced his candidacy Feb 2 after being chosen as the "only candidate," and Armando Ocampo of the nascent Coordinating Body of Workers at the Service of the State (Cotrase) launched his campaign Feb 18.

Solana Disagrees With Conference Findings

PA0804140789 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 31 Mar 89 pp 1, 30-A

[Report by special correspondent Jose Manuel Nava]

[Excerpts] Atlanta, 30 Mar—Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana today denied allegations of divisiveness in Mexican foreign policy and asserted that Mexican foreign policy is not under the sole control of a certain cadre of Mexican cabinet members.

In his first statements to the press in Atlanta on his alleged inability to direct Mexican foreign policy, Solana told EXCELSIOR that Mexican foreign policy "is firmly under the direction of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari."

Interviewed during a recess in the continental conference convened to draft a new continental agenda, Solana vigorously denied that Mexican foreign policy has disintegrated and said that Mexican foreign policy is based on principles "clearly established" by President Salinas de Gortari.

U.S. political and media circles believe that Solana is at the center of an interagency struggle within the Mexican Government for control over national foreign policy. [passage omitted]

At the Atlanta conference called by former Presidents Carter and Ford, Solana's views were very prominent since his was the only dissenting voice heard at the conference. Solana expressed his disagreement with the general conclusions presented by the committee that studied the progress of democratization on the continent.

After former Belizean Prime Minister George Price presented the democracy and human rights committee conclusions to the foreign press, Solana expressed disagreement with one of the conclusions that democratic systems can be exported as finished products.

Solana publicly questioned the manner in which Price presented the conclusions, pointing out that Price's assertion that there was a general consensus is incorrect.

Solana said: "It is necessary to maintain democratic progress made over the last few years as well as the progress made in human rights, which is closely linked to democracy." However, he pointed out that democratic systems cannot be exported as finished products but must evolve from the internal processes within each country.

Former President Carter made clear that the participants had not agreed on the language used in the conclusions and that if Foreign Secretary Solana disagreed, his position would be included in "the minority report."

Solana stood up, again, to Carter's remark and interjected: "I am not so sure we are a minority."

Solana's unusual public statement was interpreted by various U.S. Government officials as an attempt by Solana to dispel the impression that he manages Mexican foreign policy timidly.

In response to a question about the specific reason for his disagreement, Solana downplayed the incident by saying that the disagreement was formal, not substantive. "The problem concerns the way" in which the conclusions were presented, Solana explained.

Some Bush administration officials believe that Solana is very far from being a timid official. In fact, they regard him as an antagonistic figure when it comes to discussing the volatile bilateral issues of immigration and democratic ideologies.

Government officials particularly disliked Solana's marked opposition to the continuation of the joint operations authorized by the Attorney General's Office and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to stop Mexicans and Central Americans from illegally crossing the Mexican border into the United States. [passage omitted]

Finance Secretary Meets U.S. Bank Officials

PA0604141789 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Mexico has presented its proposals for renegotiating its foreign debt before a group of U.S. bank executives. The proposal includes the issuance of special

bonds and a debt or interest payment reduction. These proposals are in accordance with the Brady plan, which calls for a substantial foreign debt reduction.

These proposals were presented during a meeting at the U.S. Federal Reserve building between Pedro Aspe Armella, secretary of finance and public credit, and representatives of the Chase Manhattan Bank, the Bank of America, the Chemical Bank, Citibank, and Morgan Guaranty Trust, among others. Now it all depends on what option the U.S. banks are willing to accept.

Regarding the foreign debt, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said that good steps were taken during a meeting with Mexican industrialists to discuss a renegotiation of the foreign debt. Salinas added that efforts to spur economic growth should not only be based on efficient foreign trade, but also on an expanded, strong domestic market.

[Begin Salinas de Gortari recording] Economic recovery will only be possible if economic growth gradually restores the consumer's buying power based on real wages. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Finance Secretary on Debt Negotiations 'Impasse'
PA1004004989 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 4 Apr 89 pp 1, 38

[By THE NEWS Staff]

[Text] Mexican Finance Secretary Pedro Aspe Armella said Monday that an impasse in negotiations for a solution to the debt crisis is jeopardizing adjustment programs in some debtor countries.

"The sand is in the bottom of the hour glass," Aspe told a meeting of the International Monetary Fund's Interim Committee in Washington. "The uncertainty of a long period of negotiations that nobody wants to lose, added to a lack of financial resources, endangers the viability of some countries' adjustment programs and the incentive to find a constructive solution," he said.

Fiscal imbalances existing in industrialized countries also threaten to wipe out the developing world's efforts at internal economic adjustment, Aspe added.

"It is necessary that all of the industrialized nations practice what they preach about fiscal policy," Aspe said in the speech, a copy of which was forwarded to THE NEWS.

He said attempts to combat inflation in industrialized countries should rest more heavily on reducing deficit spending and less heavily on the adjustments in interest rates that make it harder for developing nations to service their foreign debts.

"External shocks, such as rising interest rates, deterioration in the terms of trade, or increased protectionism, can cancel even the most impeccable internal adjustments in a debtor economy."

Aspe said Mexico was convinced that the country must continue its own adjustment efforts. But he added that recent increases in international interest rates have boosted the debt service burden by 3 billion dollars a year, "annuling our new fiscal efforts."

Interest rates in the United States have risen steadily in the past several months as a result of U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's campaign to control inflation in that country. Although most of Mexico's debt payments are linked to the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR), adjustments in the prime are quickly reflected in the British rate.

Aspe said losses from deteriorating terms of trade cost Mexico 42 billion dollars in the 1983-1988 period, or 42 percent of the country's foreign debt.

While industrialized countries have registered six straight years of economic expansion, little benefit has been passed on to the developing world, Aspe said. "It is important to recognize that there have been advances and setbacks, but also that they have been distributed in an unfair manner."

Aspe characterized the past 10 years as a "lost decade" in terms of economic development in developing countries.

The debt relief initiative announced March 10 by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady is "an important conceptual advance," particularly for its emphasis on debt and debt service reduction and on more active participation of multilateral institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank, Aspe said. He discounted criticism of debt reduction as a disincentive to new lending, saying that banks are not willing to make new loans anyway.

"We recognize it," Aspe stated. "While the so-called 'debt overhang' is not reduced no one is going to lend more money."

While Aspe said debt reduction implies losses for the banks rather than for taxpayers in industrialized countries, he added that multilateral institutions—which are supported by taxpayer money—should guarantee the principal and interest payments on debt-reduction bonds. Banks trade old debt for the new bonds which are more likely to be repaid due to guarantees.

The disappointing performance of an issue of Mexican debt bonds last year was chalked up to the lack of a guarantee for the interest the bonds were supposed to generate. Their principal was guaranteed by U.S. Treasury bonds purchased by the Mexican Government and held in a bank outside the country.

Aspe spoke of the need to differentiate "old debt" from "new debt" so that banks could discount old debt and simultaneously offer new loans. He said industrailized

countries should harmonize their banking regulations and use tax breaks to lure banks into participating in the process of solving the debt crisis.

So far, banks have generally backed away from the new U.S. debt initiative, Aspe said. Although member countries of the Group of Seven industrialized nations endorsed the ideas outlined in the initiative Sunday, Aspe said they have not yet been able to coordinate their debt policies.

Japan's Export-Import Bank To Extend Loans

OW3103115389 Tokyo KYODO in English 0653 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan Friday signed a contract with Mexican Telephone Public Corp on loans worth 45 billion yen.

The loans, part of a 30 billion U.S. dollar recycling plan, will be used to help fund a government project to construct a digital telephone network, scheduled for completion in 1991.

Pemex Increases Oil Prices in March

PA0904173989 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 3 Apr 89 p 34

[Report by THE NEWS Staff]

[Text] An improved international oil market allowed Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) to boost its average export price for Isthmus crude sold on the American Continent during March by 1.62 dollars per barrel, Pemex reported Sunday.

A press release from the state-owned oil monopoly said the March price for its light crude averaged 17.48 dollars per barrel, as opposed to 15.86 dollars per barrel in February. Isthmus is one of the three grades of crude Mexico sells on the international market and is usually sold in a mixture, or "cocktail," with the heavier and less expensive Maya variety.

Bank of Mexico Report on Public Finances

PA0904200789 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 5 Apr 89 p 35

[Report by Daniel Alder]

[Text] Economic data for the first two months of 1989 indicate that the administration of Carlos Salinas de Gortari is sticking to its pledge of cleaning up public finances, a recently released Banco Nacional de Mexico (Banamex) report says.

Higher income from nonpetroleum exports combined with frugal federal spending during January and February to reduce the federal deficit, the report says. Although the report did not provide a figure for the deficit, a graph it contains puts the combined deficit for January and February at about 2 trillion pesos. That is a reduction of 76 percent from the deficit of about 8.3 trillion pesos, Banco de Mexico reported for the first two months of 1988.

While the report attributes much of the reduction to seasonal factors, it adds that nonpetroleum revenues reached 5.3 billion pesos during the 2-month period, representing real annual growth of about 1 percent. Public spending was reined in by 30 percent in real annual terms, the report says.

Spending cuts included a 32 percent real reduction in federal subsidies, it adds.

Banamex also reported that the government's restrictive monetary policy has sucked 3 trillion pesos out of circulation during the 2-month period. That reduction was in part made possible by a surge in liquidity between October and December of 1988 because of the large year-end demand for capital that accompanies the holiday season.

During February, the money supply (M1) fell by 12.4 percent in real terms, according to Banamex.

Industrial production also did well during January, registering 3 percent growth over the average level for 1988, the report says.

Money Supply Growth Slows in January 1988

PA1004000889 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 4 Apr 89 pp 1, 38

[By Daniel Alder, THE NEWS finance editor]

[Text] Growth of Mexico's money supply (M1) continued to slow in January, registering an annual increase of 56.2 percent, Banco de Mexico reported Monday.

M1 increased by 62.3 percent during the 12-month period ending with December, and its rate of expansion has decreased steadily for more than a year. The rate of growth for the January 1987-January 1988 period was 132 percent.

Growth in the amount of treasury bills (Cetes) in circulation also showed an important decrease during the 12-month period ending in January, according to the central bank report. The value of Cetes in circulation was 32.9 percent higher for the year ending in January as opposed to 69 percent growth for the year ending December 1988.

Banco de Mexico figures show that the long-term development bonds, known as Bondes, which are offered at terms of a year or longer as compared with the 28-day life span of most Cetes in circulation, continued to make advances.

Bondes increased their foothold in the market by a value of 14.4 trillion pesos over the year ending in January. The relatively long-term instrument made its debut in 1987. That is a 21 percent increase over the 11.9 trillion pesos in new Bondes investments that entered the financial system during the 12 months ending with December 1988.

The financial system as a whole attracted 44.5 trillion pesos through fixed-rate instruments during the January 1988-January 1989 period, Banco de Mexico reported. That's an increase of 66.1 percent, as compared to 68.5 percent growth over the 12-month period ending with the previous month.

225 Reportedly Freed Under Prisoner Release Plan
PA1004013589 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 4 Apr 89 p 2

[By Elliot Spagat, THE NEWS national editor]

[Text] So far, 225 prisoners have been released as a result of the request President Carlos Salinas de Gortari made on Feb 23 to governors asking them to review cases in which motives for imprisonment were political, said Fernando de la Mora of the Directorate of Human Rights at the Interior Secretariat (Gobernacion) on Monday.

The Human Rights Directorate will be able to predict how many prisoners stand to benefit by May 15, when it expects all 31 states and the Federal District to have responded to Salinas' invitation.

De la Mora, who is coordinating the flow of information in the follow-up effort, said that seven states have responded to date. Under Salinas' invitation, or convocatoria, governors and state legislatures will review state penal codes and consider pardons for prisoners who committed crimes "while attending political and social demonstrations."

The states, however, are not required to comply, said de la Mora.

It has not yet been determined who will be responsible for the follow-through in the Federal District, where there is neither a governor nor a legislative body. De la Mora said he expected a decision to be reached within a week.

"Pure propaganda; we're not prepared to accept that," said Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, president of the Committee for the Defense of Prisoners, the Persecuted and the Disappeared, upon hearing de la Mora's assertion that 225 people have been released.

The former presidential candidate for the Workers Revolutionary Party (PRT) whose son disappeared in the 1970's, said that she knew of only three people who have been released as a result of Salinas' Feb 23 announcement. They are poet Israel Gutierrez Hernandez and teacher Francisco Urdina in San Luis Potosi, and Genaro Fuentes Calderon in Guanajuato.

De la Mora said that he was not authorized to release a list of names of the 225 released under the presidential initiative. Ibarra de Piedra plans to file a request for the names on Wednesday.

The most enthusiastic promoter of the invitation has been the government of Veracruz, where Interior Secretariat Fernando Gutierrez Barrios was governor from 1986 to 1988. Under an amnesty program that was recently approved by the state Legislature, 174 people have been released, nearly 80 percent of the nationwide total. The governments of Chiapas and Michoacan are also reported to be considering amnesty programs.

In Baja California and Tabasco, state governments are considering reforms to the penal code.

The governments of Guerrero, Mexico State, and Puebla have pardoned a combined total of 45 persons, said de la Mora.

"It's a very slow process," said de la Mora. "Each state has its own way of doing things."

Costa Rica

Finance Minister on Brady Plan, Debt

PA0804184589 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Finance Minister Fernando Naranjo said that one of the most serious problems we face in implementing the Brady plan is the lack of sufficient resources to buy back the debt. He explained that even though our deficit in the balance of payments is much lower than that of previous years, we do not have sufficient international monetary reserves to buy back the debt with our own resources.

To implement the Brady plan, Costa Rica would have to rely on friendly countries to get the necessary resources, Naranjo explained. Another limitation of the Brady plan is that the solution to our country's problems must reach even deeper. Naranjo believes that Costa Rica should try to reduce the debt by 50 percent and not by 30 percent, as suggested in the plan. He added that the 30-percent reduction would be a relief but would not be enough to solve the debt problem.

El Salvador

Duarte's Condition 'Still Delicate'

PA0804201389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1934 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 8 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Dr Jose Luis Saca, Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte's personal physician, said today that after suffering a "serious" relapse last week, Duarte overcame the "crisis and is convalescing" at his residence.

Saca, who has been treating Duarte since June, when he was found to be suffering from stomach and liver cancer, said that "Duarte is a little better." The doctor added, however, that Duarte's condition is "still delicate," and that he is still "under intensive care" at the presidential residence.

Duarte, 63, suffered a new relapse on 6 April, as a result of a chemotherapy treatment he is receiving for his terminal cancer. According to Saca, Duarte turned over the country's administration to Salvadoran Vice President Rodolfo Castillo Claramount last week because of the relapse, which caused him to vomit and to become dehydrated.

Communications and Culture Minister Roberto Viera said that Castillo Claramount has temporarily assumed the office of the Presidency while Duarte recovers. [passage omitted]

Cristiani Rejects Latest FMLN Proposal

PA0704215889 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Report by Eduardo Lizama on news conference given by Salvadoran President-elect Alfredo Cristiani at the Press Club in Washington; date not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Cristiani] "I do not agree with the position that it is a transition government because this is a government that came into being as the result of a free election, a democratic election in which a majority of voters in El Salvador voted, despite the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] boycott. We are (?certainly) prepared, however, to continue the dialogue that has been started to seek their reincorporation into the democratic process."

[Lizama] Cristiani was optimistic, however, about the prospects for achieving peace that have arisen following the agreements signed in February by the five Central American presidents in San Salvador and the new U.S. foreign policy toward the isthmus.

[Cristiani] "In the first place, the El Salvador agreements will reinforce the conditions, let us say, the things to be complied with by the various Central American countries in order to achieve the two great objectives of peace and democracy."

[Lizama] Nevertheless, Cristiani said that he does not agree with the demobilization of the insurgent forces, stressing that this measure must be carried out only after the Managua government fulfills its democratization promises.

[Cristiani, in progress] "...the El Salvador agreement signed in February. I, in particular, do not agree with dismantling the Nicaraguan Resistance prior to the holding of elections in Nicaragua, as offered by President Ortega. I think they have every right to continue to exist as a united political group. It is impossible for them to get military support at present. In fact, they are only waiting to participate in the 1990 elections. Nonetheless, the El Salvador meeting gave President Ortega an opportunity to express the possibility of initiating a free, open, and participatory democratic process in Nicaragua. We feel there are many reasons why we cannot trust words but need the facts. The Sandinist government failed to make good on the promises it made at the beginning. With Esquipulas II, the Sandinists took a step forward but subsequently took another step backward later. All this has to be taken into consideration prior to trying to dismantle the rebel movement."

[Lizama] The news conference was twice interrupted by demonstrators who forced their way into the Press Club conference room. They accused Cristiani of being linked

to the right-wing death squads in El Salvador. Other demonstrators near and around the Press Club building were watched closely by uniformed and plainclothes policemen.

Cristiani, who met with U.S. President George Bush, Secretary of State James Baker, and (?bank officials) in Washington on Monday and Tuesday, will meet with U.S. legislators, including U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Jim Wright, one of the leading advocates of a peaceful solution to the Central American conflicts.

Military Reports 175 'Terrorist' Casualties

PA0904142989 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1900 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Report issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee in San Salvador—date not given]

[Text] A total of 72 terrorists were killed and at least 103 were wounded in clashes with Army units between 31 March and 7 April. The Armed Forces General Staff also reports that the military seized 30 large-caliber rifles, including an AK-47 and a Soviet-made Dragunov sniper rifle; 5 automatic pistols; ammunition; 160 homemade bombs; 95 grenades; 90 blocks of TNT; 169 booby traps; and a considerable amount of material for manufacturing bombs.

During the same period, the terrorists murdered 17 peasants and wounded 23 persons in several attacks. The terrorists also kidnapped 10 civilians, taking them to an undetermined destination.

Meanwhile, 2 civilians were killed, 13 were wounded, and at least 10 homes were destroyed as a result of terrorist attacks by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] against three military garrisons.

The Military Engineers Detachment in Zacatecoluca, La Paz Department, was the target of one of these attacks. Gloria Hernandez was killed and six other civilians were wounded in this attack, which also destroyed six homes. The Zacamil Battalion of the National Police in San Salvador also was attacked. An 8-year old girl, Karina Lizette Patino, was killed in this attack, six persons were critically wounded, and four homes near the garrison were destroyed. Likewise, one civilian was wounded during another attack by the FMLN terrorists against the Artillery Brigade garrison near San Juan Opico, La Libertad Department.

Residents of the above-mentioned areas strongly condemned these terrorist attacks. They urged the organizations that claim to defend human rights to make a statement condemning such criminal attacks by the FMLN, which always cause civilian casualties.

FMLN Reports Military Actions, Casualties

5-7 April Actions

PA1004041189

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0200 GMT on 9 April broadcasts approximately 4 minutes of reports on military activities of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) from 5 through 7 April.

In a report from Santa Ana Department, the radio says that "eight casualties were inflicted on the 2d Infantry Brigade" during a guerrilla ambush at El Guineo Canton on 6 April. It adds that constant FMLN military actions in Santa Ana Department "have forced the enemy to consider this area a new front, and it now has to wear out its aircraft and disperse its troops there too."

In another report from Santa Ana, Venceremos says that on 5 April a Salvadoran National Railroad locomotive and two cars were derailed while en route from San Salvador to Metapan. It adds that "this action was in keeping with the policy of putting pressure on the transportation of cement and other export products." In addition, the radio reports that the FMLN "blew up high tension towers and power lines in El Guineo and San Jacinto cantons near the 77 km marker on the highway between Coatepeque and Santa Ana."

The radio says that a report from the San Agustin - Usulutan area indicates that "two casualties were inflicted on the Atonal Battalion on 7 April at Crucitas Canton, San Agustin jurisdiction." The report adds that "other guerrilla units ambushed an enemy patrol at Nombre de Dios Canton, inflicting two more casualties. The report says that "the enemy fled in disarray." The station adds that "Comrade Rodolfo Bolanos, a.k.a. Comrade Gonzalo, was killed in this action. He was once an Atonal Battalion soldier but came to fully realize what interests the FMLN defends."

2-8 April Casualties

PA1004042789

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 2200 GMT on 9 April carries approximately 20 minutes of reports summarizing Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) actions during the week of 2-8 April.

According to the radio, the FMLN inflicted 438 casualties on the Army, including three officers and five noncomissioned officers, during the week. Venceremos reports that the rebels inflicted 215 casualties alone in a "successful operation" in Chalatenango on 6 April, involving an attack on the 4th Infantry Brigade's headquarters "with people's artillery."

The radio claims that the rebels carried out a total of 4 ambushes during the week, which resulted in 55 casualties. In addition, the station reports a total of 16 rebel incursions throughout the country during the week and says that urban commando units in San Salvador have "intensified their activity."

The station also claims that the rebels destroyed one military truck, one armored vehicle, and three Civil Defense headquarters, and sabotaged 38 power poles and towers during the week. It also reports that the rebels "recovered" 23 rifles, 1 PRC-77 radio, and 24 knapsacks.

Correction to FMLN Presents Proposal to ARENA

PA0804051289

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "FMLN Presents Peace Proposal to ARENA," published in the 7 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 19:

page 19, column one, second paragraph, first sentence make read: [Text] Position of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front to the future Nationalist Republican Alliance government and proposal to achieve genuine democracy, a new society, and peace-.(providing dropped title of proposal);

page 19, column one, third paragraph, second sentence make read: ...believe in its image campaign with which...(providing indistinct word);

page 19, column two, third paragraph, first sentence make read: 3. ARENA must show its willingness to engage in a real negotiation and not a...(rewording, clearing queried word);

page 20, column one, third paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...presence of many mutually agreeable international observers; the right to vote for all Salvadorans who live abroad; and the creation of conditions to allow them to vote. (inserting dropped words, rewording);

page 20, column two, eighth paragraph, signature line make read: ...Sancho, Salvador Sanchez Ceren,... (correcting name).

Honduras

Joint U.S., Navy Drug Operation Successful

PA0604223289 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 1430 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Report by Eduardo Coto from Puerto Cortes; passages within quotations marks recorded]

[Text] In a joint operation, forces from the naval base at Puerto Castilla and the U.S. Coast Guard have captured the vessel "Patricia II" while it sailed northwest of the (Rosalinda Keys).

In a routine inspection, it was discovered the vessel was carrying approximately 22,000 pounds of red point [punto rojo] marijuana that, according to narcotics experts, is worth over $10 million.

[Unidentified speaker] "This occurred at 0400 on 30 March in Honduran jurisdictional waters. The vessel was sailing northwest of the (Rosalinda Keys)."

Based on the evidence, the vessel's crewmen were arrested, all of whom are Colombians: Gerry Emilio Hutchinton Martinez, Lindolfo Olly Kelly, Luis Ernesto Perez Medrano, Oderman Blancos Nunez, Silverio Castillo, Marcelo Poleno, Elias Roy Amaya, Isaias [Name indistinct] Zuniga Silgano, and Javier Perez Marcano.

[Unidentified speaker] "The vessel, the crew, and the marijuana are being held by this unit and are ready to be placed at the disposition of the appropriate courts."

If a firm sentence is issued condemning the vessel, it will become the property of the Honduran state. The owner's name is not yet known.

[Unidentified speaker] "No. I even inquired yesterday at the Merchant Marine Section. We were told the registration document is false and is not Honduran."

Meanwhile, Frigate Captain Ricardo Reyes Rivera, commander of the naval base at Puerto Cortes, said the joint operations with the U.S. Coast Guard will continue to train our forces and guarantee that the nation's maritime area will not be used for passage by international drug traffickers.

Nicaragua

Ortega Criticizes U.S.-Honduran Agreement

PA0904011989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Managua 8 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra today criticized the ratification of a bilateral military aid agreement between the United States and Honduras because, he said, it deals a blow to the peace agreement signed in El Salvador in February.

At that meeting, the Central American presidents asked governments both inside and outside the region that openly or covertly provide aid to unconventional forces to immediately halt their aid.

On 29 March, the U.S. and Honduran Governments ratified the additional protocol of a bilateral military aid agreement.

The Nicaraguan president made these remarks during today's inauguration of a hydroelectrical project in Asturias, Jinotega, northern Nicaragua, that will save the country approximately 200,000 barrels of oil every year.

Ortega said that the United States cannot criticize the arms buildup in the region while it promotes military maneuvers and brings weaponry into Central America, particularly into Honduras.

The president said that the presence of U.S. troops in Honduras heightens tension in the region and deals a blow to the El Salvador agreement.

The hydroelectric project inaugurated today is located in Apanas Lake, Jinotega Department. It will send electric power to the Central American and Carlos Fonseca plants, which together will produce over 4 million kilowatts of electricity an hour.

According to an official source, Latin American and European capital was used for the construction of the Asturias project, which took 5 years to complete.

Ortega on Cristiani Plan 'To Sabotage' Pact

PA1004011789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1504 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Managua, 9 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has delivered a speech in northern Nicaragua in which he charged that his Salvadoran counterpart, Alfredo Cristiani [as received], "wants to ignore" the agreements reached at the summit meeting in El Salvador.

According to the Sandinist leader, the president-elect of El Salvador "has a plan to sabotage" the agreements signed in February by the five regional presidents. One of the issues on which they agreed on that occasion was a plan to dismantle, demobilize, or relocate within 90 days, all the contras who are in Honduras.

In a speech delivered in his country, Cristiani said he is against the Nicaraguan rebels leaving Honduran territory.

Ortega said: "The new Salvadoran Government is already thinking about and working on a proposal to be presented at the next presidents' meeting in Costa del Sol (El Salvador), and it is not going to agree to the demobilization of the contras."

The next summit will take place in May on a Honduran island. No specific date has been set yet.

According to the Nicaraguan head of state, the new Salvadoran administration "will try to establish a correspondence between the contras, an artificial force created by the United States, and the revolutionary movement in El Salvador."

Ortega noted: The purpose of all this "is to lead to the absurd proposition that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) must be demobilized in exchange for the demobilization of the contras."

The Sandinist president said that the FMLN guerrillas are not in Nicaragua and challenged the Salvadoran authorities to "point out" where they are. According to Ortega, the FMLN fighters "are in El Salvador and do not need bases in other countries."

Ortega made these statements on Saturday to the diplomatic corps, government officials, and workers who went to the dedication of the Asturias Hydroelectric Plant, 190 km north of Managua. The plant will save Nicaragua $3 million a year in oil expenditures.

Opposition Leader on Electoral Law Amendments

PA0704192689 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Statement by Joaquin Mejia, vice president of the Independent Liberal Party; place not given—live]

[Text] First, in commenting on the atmosphere surrounding the government's proposal to reform the Electoral Law, we must not overlook the fact that we still have no amnesty and that more than 100,000 youths have been drafted. This greatly reduces the impact of the proposal.

Ortega himself had announced that he would address the issue of Nicaraguans voting abroad. This is disappointing; it is one of our greatest disappointments, because Nicaraguans have been virtually banned from voting abroad. Instead, they (?are offered) the possibility of registering abroad and coming to vote here.

Those 500,000 or more Nicaraguans who have emigrated are very poor; they cannot afford to pay between $500 and $1,000 to travel to Nicaragua to cast their vote. That is simply a way to ban Nicaraguans living abroad from voting through a subterfuge.

As for the 30-minute space on television, that is another pittance; it is another way to continue (?promoting) the dictatorship. They should approve at least one private television station here. The other day I commented that there are two official and four private television stations in El Salvador, which allows a certain balance there.

On the contrary, here we have seen 10 years of permanent propaganda over the radio and television by the Ortega brothers' regime. They have managed radio and television as if those media were their property, although all the Nicaraguan people own those media. This is truly a ridiculous and shameful situation; this is a serious obstacle that contributes nothing to the democratization to which we aspire.

I believe the inclusion in the Supreme Electoral Council of parties that are not represented in the National Assembly is a good idea. People demanded this as well as less stringent requirements for establishing new parties. However, this does leave the door wide open to political opportunists. I commented to a friend that if [words indistinct] those political opportunists now and then, we

can say that this regime scientifically plans political opportunism. That is not only reflected in what this regime is now announcing, but in what it has been doing for the past few years.

In general terms, Mr Ortega's proposal is not a broad, generous proposal. It is not made in good faith but reluctantly. We are still being offered small gains accompanied by traps and the temptation to create even more political opportunists.

We are facing a very sad outlook. We are not very optimistic about possible changes to this proposal at the Assembly, because as you all know, the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] has an absolute majority at the Assembly. That is why the FSLN organized the 1984 elections. If the proposal reaches the Assembly, do not expect opposition deputies to be able to make significant changes to it. The outlook facing us is dramatic and dark.

Defense Ministry Communique on Honduran Attacks

PA0704231389 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 7 Apr 89 p 5

[Text] A Defense Ministry communique states that so far this year Honduran Army troops have carried out a total of 43 attacks against areas on our border using rifle, heavy machinegun, and mortar fire.

The report states that at 1700 on 3 April, Honduran Army troops harassed the border area of La Vigia, northeast of Teotecacinte in Region 1, with 81-mm mortar and heavy machinegun fire.

One day later, at 1830, they attacked the border area of Murupuchi, north of Teotecacinte, Nueva Segovia, also in Region 1, with rifle and heavy machinegun fire.

GDR Trade Union Delegation on Official Visit

LD0704083189 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0256 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Managua (ADN)—A delegation from the Free German Trade Union Federation [FDGB], led by Harry Tisch, member of the Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee and chairman of the FDGB National Executive, arrived in Nicaragua yesterday evening on an official visit. The delegation was invited by the Sandinist Workers' Central Trade Union.

Ortega Greets GDR's Tisch

PA0904135289 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra last evening welcomed Comrade Harry Tisch, member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Politburo and chairman of the Free German Trade Union Federation, at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport.

Greeting the Nicaraguan people and Government, Comrade Tisch said: It has been 10 years since the Nicaraguans, after many sacrifices and a long struggle, began to choose their own destiny. These 10 years were marked by a difficult struggle and the brutal attacks of the contras, who have been supported by the United States with money and weapons, but who were repelled.

Leaders 'Favor' Disarmament

LD0704120189 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0914 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Managua (ADN)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] Politburo member Harry Tisch, chairman of the Free German Trade Union Federation, have spoken out in favor of a continuation of the disarmament process without pause. During talks in Managua on Thursday, they underlined that this involved, above all, steps such as cutting in half U.S. and Soviet strategic offensive weapons, a worldwide ban on chemical weapons, and the drastic reduction of conventional armed forces from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Daniel Ortega explained the efforts undertaken by the Nicaraguan people under the leadership of its avant garde, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] in the protection and consolidation of its democratic construction work and in exercising its right to self-determination. He also outlined the current complex domestic political situation and the extremely tense economic situation.

The two politicians concurred in noting that all opportunities for strengthening international security, for a change for the better in world politics, must be utilized so that peace can be preserved.

They both put forward the view that political solutions to the elimination of hotbeds of tension and conflict must be sought. The two politicians praised the elimination of the medium-range missiles of the Soviet Union and the United States and the latest initiatives of the GDR and other socialist states to reduce their armed forces and defense budgets. They expressed the hope that the NATO states will give an appropriate response to these prior concessions.

Daniel Ortega underlined the FSLN's firm desire to continue in the future to strive steadfastly for a permanent peace in Nicaragua and the region.

The main obstacle continues to be the U.S. Administration, whose policy was in contradiction to the Contadora peace process and the agreements of the Central American peace plan.

Ortega stressed that the latest decision by the Bush administration to continue support for the Contras until 1990 harbored great risks for the achievement of a peace solution in the region. He renewed his government's readiness to conduct dialogue with Washington on the normalization of relations.

Harry Tisch underlined that the GDR had a high regard for the clear peace signals emanating from Nicaragua at the latest meeting of the five Central American presidents as a constructive, substantive contribution by the country to eliminating the hotbed of crisis in the region.

The two politicians expressed satisfaction about the good state of the friendly relations between the GDR and Nicaragua. The GDR would continue to stand at the side of the Nicaraguan people in their struggle for peace, independence, sovereignty, and social progress, Harry Tisch assured.

The FDGB National Executive's delegation was invited by the Sandinist Workers Central Trade Union.

Tisch Confers With Tirado

LD0804100989 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0454 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Managua (ADN)—Harry Tisch, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and head of a delegation of the Free German Trade Union Federation National Executive had a friendly meeting yesterday evening in Managua with Victor Tirado, member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] National Directorate. The FDGB National Executive chairman reported on the multifaceted efforts by the GDR working people to strengthen socialist construction. His partner in the talks pointed out that against the background of favorable possibilities for lasting peace in Nicaragua, all efforts are being concentrated on stabilizing the economy, which has been wrecked by the long years of war and the U.S. embargo.

Attends Friendship Rally

LD0904110789 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0250 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] A freindship rally was held yesterday as the centerpiece of the 3d day of the visit to Nicaragua by the delegation of the National Executive Council of the GDR Trade Union Federation, the FDGB, led by Chairman Harry Tisch, member of the Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee. At the "Inca" metal-processing factory outside the provincial capital of Masaya, the GDR politician handed over a consignment financed by FDGB solidarity donations. The consignment included tools, textiles, and milk powder.

Prior to this, Tisch visited an agricultural production center. He also was a guest at the GDR-built "Ernst Thaelman" vocational training center at Jinotepe, where members of the Free German Youth's "Augusto Cesar Sandino" friendship brigade are helping train specialist workers.

Central Bank's Cordoba Exchange Rate Announced

PA0704133989 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Beginning today, the exchange rate at the Central Bank will be 6,300 cordobas to $1. Money exchanges are expected to announce the new exchange rate during the course of the day.

Panama

Madrid Paper Interviews General Noriega

PM1004151289 Madrid ABC in Spanish 26 Mar 89 (BLANCO Y NEGRO supplement) pp 24-29

[Interview with Panamanian Defense Forces Chief General Manuel Noriega by Juan Carlos Azcue at Ribaco base; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At the Ribaco military base we sat down on the terrace beside the Pacific. We talked alone for 1 and ½ hours. The general is happy. Looking at him, you just know that this man is not prepared to leave the country, whatever happens, even if the U.S. courts accuse him of drug trafficking and there is a warrant out for his arrest. Manuel Antonio Noriega does not intend to leave Panama unless he suffers a coup, but he leaves the door open to dialogue with U.S. President George Bush's administration. "I have done them many favors, and they know it, but nobody is going to tell me when I must go..."

[Azcue] General Noriega, what is the current situation in Panama?

[Noriega] We are in a pre-election period, while continuing to suffer a persistent economic attack. Despite everything, we have had time to reflect. That is why the population expectantly awaits the elections with a good level of harmony.

[Azcue] Could the elections take place in a tense atmosphere?

[Noriega] This nation has had a revolutionary tradition since the Panamanian oligarchy was violent.... That means mutual accusations and violence; however, I expect that the elections will take place normally, provided that there are no external influences. So far there have been punches and kicks.... Bringing snoopers from Europe or the United States is not very reassuring for the Panamanians. Those snoopers lack respect for the Panamanians' lives. But even so, I do not believe that it will come to violence.

[Azcue] Are you referring to the OAS commission for human rights?

[Noriega] I am referring to them and also to the Christian Democratic Party and its decision to ask the leaders of other countries to send monitoring delegations.

Establish Dialogue

[Azcue] There are newspapers closed down and political prisoners.... Would it not be desirable to decree an amnesty in order to demonstrate that you want a democratic system?

[Noriega] With respect to the political detainees, two were released yesterday, and as for the exiles, that is another matter. They are people who have been U.S. accomplices in order to bring about foreign influences. This practice constitutes high treason. They are not typical exiles. They are not like Basque Fatherland and Liberty [ETA] members in the case of Spain.

[Azcue] You speak of U.S. intervention. Why have you not severed diplomatic relations?

[Noriega] We are experiencing an abnormal situation. The United States recognizes a Panamanian president who does not even live in this country. It does not accept our diplomatic machinery but keeps its ambassador in order to interfere in all aspects of Panamanian life. This is an abnormal situation and so ridiculous that it makes you laugh.

[Azcue] What measures has the United States adopted against Panama?

[Noriega] It has frozen the Panamanian funds in dollars which our country has in New York; that is, the sums which it owes us for use of the canal. The multinationals such as Texaco are not observing the Torrijos-Carter treaty. These companies have enriched themselves but have shirked all responsibilities with respect to the canal.

There Could Be Many Killed

[Azcue] Matters have not reached extremes. Al-Nasir nationalized the Suez Canal, and it cost him a war....

[Noriega] We are not aggressive but peaceful. We have maintained the same stance since 1903. We rule out violence. We have not forgotten that for lowering the U.S. flag 24 Panamanians and an indeterminate number of U.S. troops were killed in 1964. They concealed the figures at the time. They could kill many people, but they know that they too would fall—200, 500, 1,000. They would leave wrapped in the stars and stripes. We would bury our own, but they would have to mourn them. We have borne the humiliations and advised our men to avoid provocations. We have told the people this.

[Azcue] Do you not have the impression that because of their proximity and history, the United States and Panama are destined to come to terms with each other?

[Noriega] We have always tried to heal the wound, but the stronger should bow to the weaker, since if the latter did so he would be a carpet, since he is so small. The U.S. Government, with its considerable diplomatic experience, should set an example with weak and defenseless countries like ours.

[Azcue] There are 10 years to go before the Americans leave the canal. Can a nonviolent solution be negotiated, as has happened with other countries?

[Noriega] Big empires can be defeated if they lack conviction. The Russians have left Afghanistan while they were being talked about as a steel wall or the bad guys in the movie. We cannot understand how a nation which is a champion of democracy and has been our ally since 1904 can maintain an aggressive stance when we have signed a treaty. We can discuss strategic positions. There are matters on which you must give way and others about which you can talk like human beings.

[Azcue] What do you believe was the catalyst for the crisis?

[Noriega] Undoubtedly, the meeting which I held with U.S. Admiral Poindexter, during which he asked me for the use of an island as a supply point for the Nicaraguan Contras. My refusal angered him so much that he broke his pipe on the table at which we were conversing. In my opinion, Panama could not intervene in a neighboring country. The U.S. Administration did not see it that way.

[Azcue] You are regarded as a very discreet man—perhaps because of your connection with the secret services—but you have suddenly become a bete noire for the United States.

[Noriega] What has happened is that Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs Abrams has conducted psychological warfare in order to demoralize a strong man with popular support and with influence in the Third World. They made a complete mistake since my attitude was one of cooperation, dialogue, and conciliation to enable the United States to come to terms peacefully with Cuba.

[Azcue] You are said to be linked to the Bush administration because of the President's former post as CIA director....

[Noriega] Look, Michael Dukakis—the other candidate—sent me messages, notes, and a whole series of requests for cooperation in order to try to secure my support against Bush, but I showed myself as I am. I took sides against nobody.

[Azcue] You are also accused of being linked to the U.S. secret services and even drug trafficking. How do you defend yourself?

[Noriega] My experience in the security services has shown me that the tactics being used are aimed at making the individual lower his guard in the face of moral and psychological blackmail. And they had already warned me: "If you do not give in, we will do it." We—I am referring to Panama—had handed over some convicted traffickers who vilely accused me in order to reduce their sentences. The United States has maintained a systematic method. For instance, there was a man in this country—Jose Antonio Ramon Candera, a military man of the years 1952-1955—who was on good terms with the U.S. Administration, but when he put forward some economic demands concerning the canal, his wife was attacked and stripped in Puerto Rico. From that time on they called her "Dona Coca" and accused him of being connected with the mafia.

[Azcue] Are you afraid for your life?

[Noriega] I will only tell you honestly that the higher cosmic consciousness, which is God, is with me. I have prayed every day since my mother taught me. It is my moral principle.

[Azcue] How do you view Central America's future?

[Noriega] Over the past few months we have been starting to open a dialogue with groups such as the 19 April Movement in Colombia and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in El Salvador. An opening to negotiation has been created which confirms the progress toward peace. Why are we making progress now? Well, because they are expressing their viewpoints, without interference from other countries, such as the United States or the USSR. Esquipulas is a Central American experience, far from the "made in the United States" style.

[Azcue] What about the foreign debt problem?

[Noriega] It is a danger threatening the nations' stability. Venezuela's experience shows that there is no country, even with a pure democracy, that escapes the economic upheavals.

[Azcue] Could an explosive situation such as in Venezuela arise in Panama?

[Noriega] There could indisputably be social explosions, but there are resources in this country to prevent them.

[Azcue] Would you like to live in Spain?

[Noriega] I am married to a Spanish woman, and as well as the political interests there are the human interests. For that reason I would be happy with you.

[Azcue] Would you be prepared to receive more ETA members?

[Noriega] We have between five and nine of them. They are not under surveillance, and we want them to be able to return when they so wish. They have been here for 4 years and we are prepared to receive more.

Nicaragua's Borge Meets With General Noriega

PA0704183489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1813 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge, who arrived in Panama today, has reaffirmed his country's support for Panama. This morning Borge met with General Manuel Antonio Noriega to reiterate the Nicaraguan Government's and people's support for Panama, thus denying U.S. reports—heard during the Oliver North trial—aimed at creating division between the Panamanian and Nicaraguan peoples and governments.

Meet at Military Ceremony

PA0804030389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0005 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, and Tomas Borge, Nicaraguan interior minister and commander of the Sandinist revolution, met today during a military ceremony held at the Omar Torrijos Base in Rio Hato. Commander Borge reviewed the Macho de Monte Company, which is today celebrating its 20th anniversary as a combat contingent created by General Omar Torrijos. The Sandinist commander delivered a brief message to the officers and troops:

[Begin recording] In memory of Gen Torrijos and in the physical presence of Gen Noriega, we congratulate the troops who are commemorating today their 20th anniversary at the service of the Panamanian fatherland. On behalf of the Nicaraguan Government and of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], I embrace Panama, Gen Noriega, and the courageous troops we have just reviewed. [end recording]

During his visit to Panama, the Nicaraguan interior minister was accompanied by the new Nicaraguan ambassador to Panama, Antenor Ferrey, Dr Aldo Diaz Lacayo, Dr Jose Pasos, and Commander Nidia of the FSLN Executive Committee. Gen Noriega and Commander Borge met for 2 hours to discuss issues of common interest.

Opposition Accuses Noriega of Planning Fraud

PA0904175889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1703 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian opposition leaders have charged in Guatemala City that General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], plans to commit fraud in the May 7 Panamanian elections.

Civic Crusade leader Manuel Burgos supported this charge by noting the Panamanian Government's decision not to allow international observers other than those "invited by the regime" to monitor the election. Burgos said that the Electoral Tribunal "is being manipulated" by the FDP and that the Panamanian people are aware of the fraud being planned by the government and will reject it.

The government will have to "commit a monstrous fraud" to win the elections, said Burgos, who last night participated in the forum "Democracy or Dictatorship: The Panamanian Case." He said that if there is fraud, the Civic Crusade will call for a paralyzation of the country. He added that the people have been asked to remain near the voting places to protect their votes and "defend them to the end."

Burgos said international observers are necessary because Noriega has begun "a campaign to promote abstention by intimidating the people."

Burgos explained that Noriega is playing out his last moves, adding: "He has been checkmated, and his ability to rally the masses is lessening every day." According to Burgos, Panama's "strongman" has announced he will remain in power even if the opposition wins the elections, which would "mean greater political isolation, because the entire world is watching these elections."

Burgos affirmed that the FDP "are not monolithic" in their support for Noriega, citing as an example three attempted coups in the last few months.

Burgos and Civic Crusade founder Aurelio Barria met on Friday with Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle, whom they asked to go to Panama as an election observer.

Carpio Nicolle told ACAN-EFE he will study the request of the Panamanian opposition, which considers him an expert on Central American problems.

Burgos told ACAN-EFE that if Noriega leaves the FDP, "Panama could become part" of the Central American Esquipulas peace process. Burgos said the Civic Crusade wants Latin America to demand respect for the people's will as expressed through the election.

"The Panamanian problem affects all countries," Burgos said, adding that Jose Isabel Blandon, who used to be a close associate of Noriega, testified against the general before a Miami grand jury.

Solis, Government Candidates on U.S. Sanctions

PA0804012189 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2359 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Unattributed report—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Carlos Duque, National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, presidential candidate, has expressed his views on the extension of U.S. sanctions against Panama.

[Duque] "We were expecting that the U.S. Government and people would approve the extension of sanctions against Panama because the United States is recognizing the invisible president of a ghost government. I think none of us were surprised by this move. I think the people of the world have reaffirmed their sanctions against the United States. We, the Panamanian people, are ready to continue our search for economic liberation."

Aquilino Boyd, COLINA vice presidential candidate, also commented on the renewed U.S. economic pressure against Panama.

[Boyd] "It is psychological warfare. I think the United States is trying to have an impact on the COLINA ticket by taking this step. Quite the contrary, the Panamanian people will become increasingly aware of the need to back the nationalist candidates, today more than ever, in the face of direct and flagrant U.S. intervention."

President Manuel Solis Palma also gave his views on the U.S. aggression against Panama.

[Solis Palma] "These are not new sanctions but an expected continuation of old ones. Therefore, I think this is no surprise, and there is nothing to say about it."

Planning Minister Comments

PA0704192889 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 7 Apr 89 pp A-1, B-4

[Report by staff writer Claudio Herrera Jimenez]

[Text] Planning and Economic Policy Minister Gustavo Gonzalez said yesterday that if the U.S. economic sanctions against Panama continue through the year, the Panamanian taxes withheld will amount to 400 million balboas.

Gonzalez was one of the speakers at an event sponsored by the Democratic Revolutionary Party's (PRD) Managerial Front at this city's Hotel Riande Continental.

Gonzalez listed seven measures taken against the National Treasury. One of these measures is the suspension of the payments agreed to under the Panama Canal Treaty and the placement of these funds in an escrow account.

Referring to the sanctions against Panama's banking and monetary system, he mentioned the freezing of funds belonging to the Banco Nacional de Panama at the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank and other U.S. banks.

He was asked how long it would take for Panama to have a growth rate similar to that before June 1987, if no short-term solution is found and if the Bush administration does not lift these sanctions.

"Public expenditures should be reduced and the investment budget should be expanded somewhat," Gonzalez said, adding: "I do not believe that this expansion would compensate for the absence of private investments."

He recalled that regardless of the public investments that have been made, Panama's economy continues to be largely in private hands. He said that public investments did not exceed 55 or 60 percent of total investments in their heyday.

The reduction in government spending and the curtailed expansion of state investments give us reason to believe that the public sector may improve slightly and that this may result in a slow normalization of government activities after 1990 or 1991, Gonzalez said.

Regarding the possible effect of a continuation of these sanctions by the Bush administration, the minister said that this "depends to a large extent on foreign perceptions of developments in Panama."

Expanding on this latter point, Gonzalez said that there are foreign expectations regarding Panama's future election process. "I do not refer to speculation as to whether it is the government or the opposition that will win, but simply as to whether or not an election process is indeed carried out, and whether Panama will have a government for the next few years," he added.

MATUTINO Berates U.S.

PA0704211889 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 7 Apr 89 p 5

["Fausto's Mailbox" column by Jorge E. Ramirez: "The Woodcutter Must Wake Up"]

[Text] When I heard on NBC television's morning newscast that President George Bush had made by hook or crook [desde su escroto] the decision to extend the previous administration's genocidal sanctions against Panama and its people for 1 more year, I felt the blood rush to my head. How can this man, who, in his inaugural speech spoke of love for his fellow man, insist on enslaving our people, turning his back on decency, humanitarianism, and decorum? When I felt that rush of blood—which many turncoats wish would have been a cerebral hemorrhage—I remembered one of my favorite poems by Pablo Neruda called "The Woodcutter Must Wake Up."

I ask myself: When will the woodcutter Abraham Lincoln wake up from his century-and-a-half long sleep? When will the woodcutter awaken to a sense of humanitarianism and end the abuses which, in the name of democracy, U.S. Republican administrations are committing against small countries? When will the woodcutter wake up and end the racial discrimination that has also reached our area, implanted in the ranks of defeatist turncoats who want to imitate their gringo bosses in everything?

I do not know for sure why Mr Bush is being so stubborn as to attempt to besiege us with hunger. Could it be, perhaps, that he finds it insulting to his fine, white, multimillionaire's skin that this country, a melting pot of races where mestizos and creoles predominate, has not succumbed?

It is not our fault, however. The individuals who in their sick minds hatched the idea of economically enslaving the Panamanian people as an expeditious means of placing power in the hands of turncoat defeatists at Washington's service failed in their calculations. It is not our fault if the evil hierarchs who tarnished the White House for 8 years allowed themselves to be deceived by Panamanian turncoats, who made them believe that the revolutionary government headed by Manuel Solis Palma would not last even 2 weeks after the sanctions were applied, and made them withhold our people's money by instructions from a phantom president. This phantom president drags his wretchedness all over the United States, and he is not welcome at the White House because, consciously or unconsciously, the U.S. President repudiates him as a traitor and does not want to shake his hand and become contaminated.

The United States did not count on the Panamanian people's patriotism, dignity, and nobility. It did not count on our people's spirit of sacrifice. It did not count on a team of Panamanian Government officials capable of taking the necessary measures to go forward, suffering economic difficulties, but without wavering, while believing, as good Christians, that God may tighten the rope, but he will not choke us. We went forward even though those who believe themselves to be God attempted to strangle us in complicity with bad, defeatist, and turncoat Panamanians who are openly fighting us, have infiltrated the revolution, and are on the state's payroll to sabotage the October revolution's work from the inside. If this continues, we will continue to be considered assholes. I know this is a little vulgar, but it is true. The ranks of revolutionary journalism have also been infiltrated by individuals who are attempting to create estrangement and disorder with their ploys, innuendoes, and not so covert attacks against prestigious government figures and parties that decisively support the revolutionary process.

Unfortunately, in the heat of this election campaign—as I have said before—our government leaders' patriotic actions have gone unnoticed. The government has refused to play up to Washington and its paid agents in the servile and turncoat opposition. The managers of our public finances, Manuel Solis Palma, Finance and Treasury Minister Orville Goodin, and Comptroller General Francisco Rodriguez, have carried out all types of feats to avoid mass dismissals. We must acknowledge this. It is true that these officials have been forced to implement rather harsh measures against those who believe the national treasury is booty for easy distribution. These measures, however, have made it possible to pay the 13th-month bonuses immediately, thanks to a lottery

that publicly established the capability, dedication, and concern of the three officials we have mentioned. It has been a slap to the bearers of bad news who want to see us fall: the ADOC [Civic Opposition Democratic Alliance] and the infiltraters.

The woodcutter, however, has begun to wake up in the United States. The woodcutter has taken the form of U.S. businessmen who are protesting because they are suffering the unjust and genocidal sanctions imposed on a small country in a useless effort to destroy a soldier who, it turns out, has armored balls.

Editorial Critical of Policy

PA1004140689 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 Apr 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Warning to the Servile Ones"]

[Text] Ignoring the request by powerful U.S. companies with offices in Panama, U.S. President George Bush announced he will continue the sanctions against the Panamanian Government in a futile attempt to break the will of Panamanian patriots who do not want to be—like the servile ones in the opposition—docile instruments of the U.S. plans to retain the military bases in our country and to renegotiate the treaties.

In a derisive statement, Bush said the "policies and actions of the Noriega and Solis Palma regime continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the Canal's security and U.S. foreign policy."

One has to be grossly ignorant of the policies implemented by the Panamanian Government to say they constitute a danger for the Canal's security.

However, apparently there must be a docile and unpatriotic government here at the service of Bush and his followers' interests—such as the members of the gringo slate [referring to the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance presidential ticket] are demonstrating.

As a REUTER dispatch said, "Although it was expected, Bush's decision disheartened some U.S. businessmen who noted the economic sanctions hurt them more than the sanctions hurt Noriega."

Bush's attitude will stir the people of Panama even more although Bush mistakenly thinks his decision will help his allies of the gringo slate. However, many Panamanians who have not yet decided for whom to vote will oppose the anti-Panamanian slate, which follows orders from those who want to turn this country into a U.S. colony.

Moreover, it has been stated that the resignation of William Gianelli [as chairman of the Panama Canal Commission (PCC) Board of Directors] was caused by his unhappiness with the extension of the sanctions—which are affecting hundreds of Panamanians who work for the PCC, whose taxes the United States is withholding—because this situation may harm the functioning of the waterway.

Let us see who supports national liberation and keeping our sovereignty and who wants to be pawns of U.S. strategy.

PCC Board Member on Appointment of Chairman

PA1004144189 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 9 Apr 89 p A - 1

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] Former Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores Typaldos told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 8 April that Panama will demand the appointment of the new chairman of the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] Board of Directors be discussed within the Board, which is composed of five U.S. and four Panamanian citizens.

Ozores, one of the Panamanian members of the Board of Directors, said the U.S. Government "should not mix politics with the canal's operation." He warned that the U.S. Government will have "to bear responsibility" for any result that might interfere with the operation of the waterway.

He said: "The Panamanian Government has always been interested in keeping the canal operation separate from politics, but the U.S. Administration insists on mixing the two."

Ozores expressed the hope that Board of Directors Chairman William Gianelli's resignation—announced on 5 April—"will introduce a change" in the canal administration.

Gianelli reported that the canal's operation is being affected by a presumably hostile attitude by Panama, which is harassing nearly 8,000 Panamanian workers whose income taxes have been withheld by the U.S. Government, but not handed over to Panama's treasury, since 1988.

Through Gianelli, the U.S. Government suspended the Board meeting scheduled to be held in Baltimore on 4-5 April. Ozores thinks Gianelli was removed by U.S. President George Bush's government.

Ozores also said the canal has continued to operate efficiently "because of the responsible attitude of the majority of Panamanian employees."

He said the Panamanian members of the Board "cannot let Gianelli's replacement automatically become chairman of the Board. The appointment of the new chairman has to be decided in a Board meeting."

The Board of Directors is scheduled to meet in Panama City in July.

Government Bans Christian Democratic Publication
PA0804020489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0032 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] The Media Directorate of the Government and Justice Ministry issued a communique this afternoon that stated that the publication LA CIVILISTA, issued by the Christian Democratic Party, has not complied with Law 11 dated 10 February 1978. Therefore, it cannot circulate until it complies with the provisions of that law. The Media Directorate communique points out that LA CIVILISTA does not acknowledge any responsible person or printer. Violators of this law will be punished.

Commission Orders Banco de Occidente Seizure
PA0904174889 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 230 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Through Resolution 1189 of 7 April 1989, the Panamanian National Banking Commission authorizes Banco de Occidente's Panama Branch to continue operating under the terms of the bank's seizure. This seizure was ordered by this resolution at 1600 today.

The seizure is a temporary measure and was taken to protect the interests of the Banco de Occidente Panama Branch's depositors and clients.

In view of actions ordered by U.S. authorities against this bank and its liquid assets, Banco de Occidente's usually adequate cash flow is suddenly facing circumstances that force the bank itself and the National Banking Commission to take the aforementioned measure until the problem is solved.

Decree Regulates Car Rental to Foreigners
PA1004150989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0033 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Decree No 17 of 7 April 1989, which sets forth provisions pertaining to the rental of motor vehicles to foreigners, states: Motor vehicle rental companies must confirm that renters, in cases involving foreigners rendering services to foreign governments or military forces, have a permit from the National Transit Directorate, which will grant such a permit based on the expressed approval of the Foreign Ministry.

The decree, which bears the signatures of President of the Republic Manuel Solis and Justice and Government Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon, also states that car rental companies must inform the Transit Directorate within 24 hours of the rental of vehicles to foreigners who enter the national territory with tourist visas or any other visas that do not grant them permanent resident status or any status not specified in this decree.

The companies must provide the Transit Directorate with information pertaining to the renter's nationality, passport, or tourist card number, the date he entered the country, the duration of the visa, the places he will visit, and the vehicle registration.

Argentina

Caputo, Chile's Errazuriz Sign Communique

PY0805034389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0030 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Apr (TELAM)—Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Errazuriz today reiterated his country's solidarity with Argentina in its conflict with the United Kingdom over the Malvinas Islands. He said "a peaceful and lasting solution to this problem should be brought about through bilateral negotiations in accordance with UN and OAS recommendations. [no close quote as received]

Tonight, at the conclusion of his visit, Errazuriz signed a communique along with his Argentine counterpart, Dante Caputo. This afternoon he met with President Raul Alfonsin to discuss bilateral issues and the progress of the peace and friendship treaty between the two countries.

The joint communique emphasizes "the need to strengthen the progress in trade made in the last few years" and "the need to prevent conflicts at the borders that could disturb the environment of harmony that should prevail between the two countries."

The communique also points out that the two foreign ministers are happy with the agreements reached within the framework of the third Binational Technical Committee Meeting held on 4 April in Santiago. The communique indicates the desire of Argentina and Chile to organize "as soon as possible" the technical organizations for the installation of a border committee in Cristo Redentor Pass.

The document reiterates the will of the two countries "to continue to act in a coordinated manner in international meetings to defend and promote their rights and interests in the Antarctic and in the consolidation of the Antarctic treaty." The communique points out the need "to exchange ideas about the development of nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful purposes for socio-economic progress and mutual cooperation."

The communique concludes by expressing the concern of the neighboring countries over drug trafficking. It also emphasizes the decision of the two countries to intensify "cooperation to fight drug trafficking."

Earlier, Errazuriz met with President Raul Alfonsin at the Olivos residence to discuss the progress of the peace and friendship treaty between the two countries, as well as bilateral trade.

The meeting was held at 1630. Alfonsin was accompanied by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Alberto Ferrari, under secretary for Latin American affairs. Errazuriz was escorted by Protocol Director Enrique Quintana and Chilean Ambassador Sergio Gaete Rojas.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Caputo reported that the issues discussed were "the process of political transformation in the region; the Chilean political situation; the progress made in the implementation of the peace and friendship treaty, especially with regard to the operation of the binational committee; and the creation of mechanisms to insure the smooth operation of border activities."

This morning Errazuriz paid homage to liberator San Martin, placing a wreath at his monument. Errazuriz will conclude his visit tomorrow.

Errazuriz on Bilateral Ties

PY0805034789 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0001 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Apr (NA)—Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Errazuriz said today that "a new stage in Argentine-Chilean relations" is beginning, and affirmed that "we are working to prevent new border incidents" between the two countries.

Errazuriz made these remarks as he came out of a meeting with President Raul Alfonsin at the Olivos presidential residence this afternoon. This meeting was also attended by Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, Chilean Ambassador Sergio Gaete, and Alberto Ferrari, Argentine under secretary for Latin American Affairs.

Errazuriz noted that "we have given new impetus to the peace and friendship treaty between the two countries in these high-level meetings, in which the need for permanent contacts in the future has been established." He added that "there is a manifest will to maintain harmonious relations and avoid new border incidents."

He said finally that "the elections in Argentina and Chile this year are important, but our permanent relations should be based on continuous contacts, and this is what we are going to do."

Vice President Returns From PRC Visit

PY0704131689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1139 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 7 Apr (TELAM)—Vice President and Senate President Victor Hipolito Martinez today returned to the country after visiting the PRC at the special invitation of the authorities of that country.

He arrived at Ezeiza International Airport just after 0700 [1000 GMT] on Aerolineas Argentinas Flight 385. [passage omitted]

Double-Digit Inflation Rate in March

PY0904030789 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 8 Apr (NA)—It has been officially reported that in March the consumer price index, which approximately measures the cost of living, increased by 17 percent. This is the highest increase in the consumer price index since August 1988.

According to a report issued by INDEC [National Institute for Statistics and Census], wholesale prices increased by 18.9 percent, while construction prices increased by 15.2 percent.

Therefore, we now have a two-digit inflation rate. In February inflation totaled 9.6 percent. This means the government has failed in its objective to reach election day, on 14 May, with a single-digit inflation rate. [passage omitted]

Pugliese Denies Bank Holiday Planned

PY0904210889 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 8 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese yesterday denied rumours that the government would call for another bank or exchange holiday next Monday, while the black market dollar slowly began its much-expected downward journey, closing at 48.60 australs (sell) and 48.40 australs (buy). Interest rates shot up to close the day at an average 35 percent monthly rates.

The official dollar remained at 20 australs, so the 1.61 percent drop in the black market greenback closed the gap between them to 141.20 percent. The "mixed" rate thus reached 34.68 australs, which together with the high interest rates, would tempt exporters to sell their dollars next week.

Meanwhile, the National Statistics and Census Board (INDEC) yesterday reported that retail prices went up 17 percent in March, the highest figure since August 1988, and a definite blow to Radical hopes to reach the May 14 elections with single-digit numbers.

The 39.7 percent accumulative rise in the cost of living during the first three months more than doubles the figures predicted in the 1989 budget.

March wholesale prices went up 18.9 percent and the index for construction costs reached 15.2 percent, according to INDEC.

The 18.9 percent rise in wholesale prices was due to an 18.1 percent increase in domestic prices and a 26.3 rise in imported goods.

The inflation rate for the last 12 months was 392.8 percent.

Bolivia

Interior Minister on Preelection Atmosphere

PY0704162089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Interior, Migration, and Justice Minister Dr Eduardo Perez Beltran has said that tranquillity prevails throughout Bolivian territory despite some vandalism reported in Potosi and Cochabamba.

Perez said that the citizenry in general has the government's guarantee that complete peace will be achieved and that the government agencies are working toward this goal.

The interior minister said that some terrorist actions, which are not a legal venue within an electoral process, were reported in the aforementioned cities. Despite these actions, he explained that complete tranquillity prevails in the country.

The interior minister expressed hope that calmness will prevail until 7 May 1989 in order to strengthen the democratic system.

Orders Visa Investigations

PY0704144089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] The Interior Ministry has ordered the creation of an investigation committee to determine the truth of accusations regarding irregularities in granting visas to PRC citizens.

This information was supplied by Interior, Migration, and Justice Minister Eduardo Perez Beltran, who said that the committee will hear testimonies from Asian tourists in order to determine if our country is actually being used as an intermediary to acquire citizenships.

Discussing a report made by the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB], the interior minister said that, unfortunately, the COB report does not provide names or factual data on the officials involved. However, he said, the Interior Ministry has ordered the appropriate investigations, considering the gravity of the accusations and the fact that they must be clarified in order to preserve Bolivia's security.

It may be recalled that the COB reported that alleged PRC tourists were paying $5,000 to acquire Bolivian citizenship, which they could subsequently use to travel to other countries.

INTERPOL sources have told Radio Panamericana that 16 Asian citizens left Bolivian territory yesterday after their visas, which were granted by the Bolivian consulate in the PRC, expired. This information has yet to be confirmed, however.

Foreign Minister Returns; Views Sea Outlet

PY0805185989 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Valentin Abecia has asked Bolivians to be understanding regarding the sea outlet issue and to avoid creating more confusion on the issue.

Minister Abecia said: I ask the Bolivian press and people not to manipulate such an important matter as that of recovering a sea outlet. We, ourselves, are creating the confusion.

The minister added that his last comments on the sea outlet issue have been misinterpreted. This issue should not create political difficulties or disputes. This issue should unite Bolivians. He emphasized: This is why I make a cordial and friendly call on all Bolivians to treat this issue with great care.

The foreign minister, who recently returned from Spain and Brasilia, said: We want a port, but we also need territory. It is absurd to expect to obtain a port without territory.

The Foreign Ministry has reiterated that Bolivia has been having problems with the Chilean Republic and that the sea outlet issue must be solved.

MIR 'Letter' Accuses Cuban Ambassador

PY0805145489 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Luis Sandoval Moron, MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] presidential candidate, told Panamericana that he does not know anything about a letter, signed by MIR leaders, regarding the Cuban ambassador to Bolivia.

Sandoval called Panamericana from Santa Cruz to say that the open letter, in which the Cuban ambassador and his government are accused of being the fifth column of the bourgeoisie and imperialism, is a fake. The letter also claims that the MIR expected the Cuban Embassy's economic assistance.

Despite Sandoval's ignorance of the existence of the letter, a document called "An Open Letter" does, in fact, exist and is signed by MIR leaders Oscar Garcia Suarez, Eduardo Rebollo Ojeda, and Elizabeth Sanchez Blanco and has the party stamp on it.

The letter clearly shows that the MIR expected financial aid from the Cuban ambassador when it states—quote—he offered us all kinds of help and made us assume many obligations. The Cuban ambassador agreed that we should rent offices and contract publicity, but then postponed a decision. Now it is too late to seek help somewhere else. We needed the money because elections are expensive.

The document adds that the ambassador now hides from the MIR, saying that he is not in when we call. He does not have the courage to explain what he is doing. The letter then calls the Cuban ambassador a number of names, who apparently interfered in the domestic affairs of our country.

National Electoral Court Reports Registration

PY0704161689 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] According to the official report released by the National Electoral Court yesterday, a total of 2,136,587 citizens have registered and are entitled to vote in the 7 May elections.

National Electoral Court President Mauro Cuellar Caballero told Radio Panamericana that the revised final figures indicate that they exceed by 28,129 citizens the number of citizens who registered for the 1985 general elections and by 324,299 citizens the number of citizens registered for the 1987 municipal elections.

The national Electoral Court also reported that the department of La Paz has registered the largest number of voters: 718,000 citizens, while Pando, which has registered 10,367 citizens, is the department with the least number of voters.

Elsewhere, Dr Mauro Cuellar Caballero has pointed out that the remittance of election material to the Departmental Electoral Courts will be completed within the next few days, and that the course for balloting table officials will be completed on 20 April 1989.

Brazil

Itamaraty Opposes Iraqi Satellite Construction

PY0805142389 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Apr 89 p G-3

[By Roberto Lopes]

[Excerpts] The Foreign Ministry opposes the development by the National Institute of Space Research (INPE) of a military reconnnaissance satellite for Iraq. Iraq has signed separate accords with INPE and with EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] (a plane manufacturer) for building the satellite. INPE Director Marcio Barbosa informed one of his assistants about the deal on 3 April.

Representatives of ENGEXCO [expansion unknown], which is a "trading" [preceding word in English] company (of the ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] groups), have met with Itamaraty officials to discuss the upcoming visit to Brazil of an Iraqi mission headed by the scientific affairs adviser to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. During the meeting, Itamaraty Secretary General Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima demanded that Engexco submit a letter stating that the Iraqi delegation will

address exclusively scientific issues and that such issues have nothing to do with rockets or Satellite Launching Vehicles (VLS). The Space Activities Institute (IAE) of the Aeronautics Ministry is building VLS' to launch into orbit four Brazilian-made satellites, which are scheduled for production under the so-called Complete Special Brazilian Mission (MECB).

EMBRAER President Engineer Ozilio Silva, who is the staunchest supporter of the construction of the Iraqi satellite in Brazil, stressed that the negotiations on the subject both within the Brazilian Government and with the Iraqi Government are moving forward. He made this remark on 5 April during the swearing-in ceremony of the new Air Force chief of staff, which was held at the honor room of the Brasilia air base. "Itamaraty does not want these negotiations to appear as if they involve a rocket technology transfer, because they, in fact, do not involve one," he said. [passage omitted]

The program for the construction of the Iraqi satellite, which INPE has been negotiating with the private sector since October 1988, is budgeted at approximately $15 million (approximately 30 million new cruzados at the black market rate). This amount does not include the specific military reconnaissance equipment which, according to INPE sources, will be supplied by France. The project that the Brazilian institute has developed for Iraq is basically the same project that was used for building the first Brazilian satellite, which is a 150-kg device that will be used for remote sensoring.

Air Force Chief Comments on Objectives

PY0704035789 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Apr 89 p 17

[Text] Brasilia—The new Air Force Chief of Staff, Lieutenant Brigadier Cherubin Rosa Filho, who took office yesterday, has announced the priority objectives of the Air Force for the rest of this government. International bids will be opened within the next few weeks for a combat simulator capable of reproducing different strategies employed by F-5 and Mirage fighter planes. The simulator costs some $20 million (20 million new cruzados), and it will probably be installed in the area of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

Rosa Filho also stressed the urgent need of the Air Force to purchase new training planes to replace the old Xavantes, manufactured by EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] 20 years ago. "The purchase of training planes to supplement the existing Xavantes planes is a point of honor," the Air Force Chief stated. Right now the Air Force has some 100 planes of that type—distributed in Natal, Fortaleza, and Santa Maria, in Rio Grande do Sul State. The purchase of the Italian training plane MAC-330 is under study.

Rosa Filho added that the delivery of the AMX prototypes will be delayed. The AMX project has been developed by Brazil (through EMBRAER) and Italy. The AMX was to have been delivered in June, but the prototypes will not arrive until November. The cannon for the AMX has already been purchased from Israel, but according to Rosa Filho, there is no chance to purchase missiles from that country, due to the price and the ban on technology transfer.

Rosa Filho also referred to the purchase of foreign technology to manufacture the satellite-launching vehicle. He did not confirm Aeronautics Minister Moreira Lima's remarks that Brazil and the PRC are already studying an agreement in that area, since the PRC can transfer technology of liquid propellant, a condition necessary for the agreement. Rosa Filho categorically stated: "A long time ago ideology stopped being an impediment to armament deals." He also announced the intention to modernize the F-5 and Mirage fighter planes already operating in the country.

Stroessner Hospitalized for Medical Checkup

PY1004004589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2301 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Sao Paulo (Brazil), 9 Apr (EFE)—Brazilian Federal Police sources have reported that ousted Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner was admitted to the Sao Paulo Heart Institute this afternoon for a medical checkup.

Paranagua (Parana State) Federal Police Inspector Luiz Melzer, who is responsible for Stroessner's security, told reporters that the ousted general, who is suffering from cancer of the prostate gland, traveled to Sao Paulo for a medical checkup at the Heart Institute.

Police sources told the news agency "ESTADO" that Stroessner's condition has deteriorated in the past few days. The sources, however, stressed that Stroessner will probably return to his residence at the Guaratuba beach resort, in Parana State.

The media have reported that Stroessner, along with his son Gustavo, left his mansion in Guaratuba, a beach resort 130 km from Curitiba, this noon by car, carrying the same baggage with which he arrived in exile in Brazil on 5 February, 2 days after he was overthrown in a coup d'etat headed by General Andres Rodriguez.

At the airport in Paranagua, 40 km from Guaratuba, the former Paraguayan president and his entourage boarded a small airplane bound for Sao Paulo.

The news agency "ESTADO" reported that Stroessner walked from his residence to the car, and then from the car to the airplane.

The Heart Institute has not reported on the patient's condition, nor has it confirmed that the former president was admitted to the institute.

Alfredo Stroessner, 76, sought refuge in Brazil on 5 February 1989 and, after staying for 2 weeks in a town in Minas Gerais State, established himself in a mansion he owns in Guaratuba.

Last Tuesday, Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana said in Brasilia that Stroessner could travel to Switzerland to receive medical treatment.

Chile

Bomb Causes Damage to U.S.-Chile Institute

PY0704132689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] The bomb attack on the Chilean—U.S. Cultural Institute in Santiago has caused considerable damage. Police have reported no victims. The shock wave, however, has damaged the institute's windows and those of several nearby homes.

The Chilean-U.S. Cultural Institute is located at 1475 Moneda Street in the center of donwtown Santiago.

The powerful bomb, which was placed at the institute's main entrance, damaged a car parked nearby. All the glass in the car, license plate No GP 7720, was destroyed.

Police bomb-squad experts called to the site are now investigating the attack.

Buchi Gaining Support as Presidential Candidate

PY0805163289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Apr 89

[All figures as heard]

[Text] Even before having officially announced whether he will really be a presidential candidate, former Finance Minister Hernan Buchi is the favorite candidate of 19 percent of the population. This fact is revealed by a survey conducted by the (CEP-ADIMAR). Christian Democratic Party leader Patricio Aylwin is supported by 24 percent of the voters.

In previous polls, Aylwin was, by far, the favorite. Buchi, however, has gained popularity and is now only 5 percent behind Aylwin. Aylwin and Buchi have a large lead over the other candidates. Lagos received 9 percent in the poll, Errazuriz 8 percent, Frei 7 percent, and Jarpa 6 percent.

As we have said, Aylwin and Buchi are the favorites in this survey. Interviews were conducted with 4,730 people nationwide. The surveyors have explained that the poll's margin of error is 3 percent.

Comparing the number of supporters that Aylwin, Buchi and Lagos are expected to have for the first round of voting, we realize that the distance seperating Buchi from Aylwin is still smaller. [sentence as heard] Aylwin is supported by 38.9 percent of the people; Buchi by 36.2 percent. The difference, therefore, stands at 2.7 percent. Lagos is supported by only 14.9 percent of the voters. Aylwin's popularity is great only when compared to the popularity of candidates such as Jarpa, who, although he received (?the support of 10 percent of the people), says he is not a candidate.

The poll also shows that Chileans are concerned about better health services and salaries. Other aspects of the survey show still greater support for Buchi, who has not yet confirmed whether he will run against Aylwin in the presidential elections. Aylwin, however, has been leading the opposition for almost 1 year now.

Asked about the candidates' personal appeal, 38 percent of the people voted for Buchi, 32 percent voted for the opposition spokesman. Regarding the candidates' vitality and enthusiasm, 40 percent of the people preferred Buchi, while 36 went with Aylwin.

PDC's Aylwin Says Pinochet's 'Threats' Serious

PY0704191289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0427 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Santiago, 6 Apr (EFE)—Patricio Aylwin, spokesman of the opposition and chairman of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), today said that the threats made by Pinochet yesterday were "extremely serious." Aylwin was referring to Pinochet's threat that the Armed Forces may refuse to accept the results of the upcoming presidential elections.

After swearing in three new ministers, General Pinochet said the Armed Forces will undoubtedly prevent the leftist groups from taking office if they win the 14 December elections.

Patricio Aylwin said Pinochet's threats "go against the 1980 Constitution," and added that whoever disrespects the elections' returns, which express the will of the people, will be "guilty of sedition."

The PDC leader added: "Gen Pinochet insists on ignoring the meaning of the no-vote victory in the 5 October plebiscite, which showed the Chileans' desire to start a new national era."

The plebiscite showed that Chileans did not approve of Pinochet's desire to stay in office for 8 more years, and opened the path for the presidential elections to be held in December.

Sergio Onofre Jarpa, chairman of the pro-government National Renewal Party, said that Pinochet only wanted "to warn us about the necessity to respect the basic principles of the Constitution. Pinochet did not close the door on the possibility of introducing certain necessary modifications."

Opposition Parties To Honor CUT Strike

PY0704162489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0558 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 6 Apr (EFE)—The 17 Chilean parties that make up the Coalition of Political Parties for Democracy [CPPD] today expressed their support for the strike to be staged by the Central Labor Union [CUT] on 18 April to protest the arrest of two top CUT leaders.

Patricio Aylwin, CPPD spokesman and president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], termed as "absolutely fair" the request to release CUT chairman Manuel Bustos and CUT deputy chairman Arturo Martines.

Meanwhile, Party for Democracy [PPD] President Ricardo Lagos today reported that the name of the single presidential candidate of the Chilean opposition for the December elections, the opposition government program, and the congressional accord will be disclosed this month.

During a visit to the city of Concepcion, 515 km south of Santiago, Lagos told the press that the drawing of the opposition's government platform is almost done. There are four opposition presidential hopefuls: PDC President Patricio Aylwin, Radical Party President Enrique Silva Cimma, Social Democratic Party President Eugenio Velasco, and independent politician Alejandro Hales.

Aylwin, Interior Minister Discuss Constitution

PY0805145889 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Christian Democratic Party Chairman Patricio Aylwin has held a long meeting with Interior Minister Carlos Caceres discussing possible modifications to the Constitution.

The meeting, which lasted from 1930 until after 2100, was held yesterday at the minister's office.

The opposition leader said the minister had asked to discuss some specific possible modifications in detail.

[Begin Aylwin recording] We exchanged opinions. My comments to the minister will be the basis for some proposals he will make to us. I have clearly told him that some proposals will be rejected, while some others may be accepted. [end recording]

Patricio Aylwin explained that the interior minister was preparing a document to be submitted to the chairmen of some opposition political parties.

Aylwin said he had a moderately optimistic opinion of the meeting. He also said he explained to the minister that the opposition was concerned about the decision to extend the study on electoral districts.

Opposition Reads Note on Changes to Constitution

PY0805202189 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Apr 89

[By Raul Pena]

[Text] A few minutes ago, the opposition coalition decided to reduce the number of its suggestions for improving the national Constitution. I also announced the minimum, indispensable modifications agreed on by the technical and academic committee, which was appointed by the National Renewal Party and the opposition parties coalition.

Coalition spokesman Patricio Aylwin has just read a statement on the issue:

[Begin Aylwin recording] Number one, although we believe the atmosphere of the talks between Minister Caceres and our spokesman Mr Aylwin is full of mutual respect, we must voice our deepest fundamental topics. These fundamental topics are the only ones that can guarantee the establishment of a real democracy. Some of these topics are the mechanisms for the reformulation of the Constitution and the formation of Congress.

Number two, the opposition coalition reiterates that its points of view on modifications to the Constitution are contained in the note it released on 14 October 1988, and in its proposals for modifications to the Constitution that were sent to the interior minister in January 1989.

In accordance with its profound interest in finding a consensus solution to this important problem, the opposition coalition today approved a document on modifications to the Constitution. The National Renewal Party and opposition coalition technical committees have approved and agreed on this document, because they believe it constitutes the minimum basis for obtaining a consensus regarding what the majority of the Chilean people expect from their Constitution. [end recording]

We can add that the talks between the opposition and the government on modifications to the Constitution will continue.

Court Overrules 4 Communist Leaders' Sentences

PY0805145989 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] The Santiago Appellate Court has discontinued the trial of four Communist leaders charged with promoting violence. The leaders, whose cases have been discontinued, are: Mireya Baltra, Americo Zorrilla, Guillermo Sherping, and Jose Sanfuentes.

The Appellate Court unanimously revoked Judge Juan Guzman's sentence. Judge Guzman had charged the Communist leaders with violating Article 6 F of the State Security Law. The Court of Appeals, however, decided that no violation of the law had occurred.

Air Force Denies Purchase of Israeli Fighters

PY0704142389 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0249 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 6 Apr (EFE)—Chilean Air Force Chief of Staff General Ramon Vega has denied reports that the Chilean Air Force (FACh) will buy Kfir fighter planes from Israel.

In statements published today by the conservative newspaper EL MERCURIO Vega said that the National Aeronautics Enterprise (ENAER) will modernize Chile's U.S.-made F-5E fighters.

Israel cannot sell the Kfir fighter planes to Chile because they are equipped with French engines; France forbids the exchange of military technology with Chile due to the human rights situation in Chile.

Reports published by specialized magazines, however, state that the Kfir fighter planes will be equipped with South African engines so they can be sold to the FACh.

In this respect, Vega said that South Africa "does not manufacture engines. The South African fighter plane (the Cheetah, which is similar to the Mirage-50 fighter plane) is equipped with French engines."

The United States has levied an embargo on the sale of weapons to the Chilean military regime since 1977 because of human rights violations in Chile.

Colombia

M-19 Leaders Found Shot To Death Near Bogota

PA0804025589 Bogota Inravision Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] The Colombian peace process with the 19 April Movement, M-19, today experienced a harsh setback when three of its leaders were found murdered.

The names of the murdered M-19 leaders are: Afranio Parra, a member of the M-19 leadership, Mauricio Cortes, and Silverio Rodriguez.

The bodies were found at a trash dump on the road between Bogota and Villavicencio. Each M-19 member had been shot through the head and they were found near the Marichuela neighborhood.

Afranio Parra was the commander of the M-19 urban militias.

Policemen Charged With Murders

PA0804190089 Bogota Inravision Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 1820 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Report by Oscar Galvis on interview with Acting Police Director General Carlos Arturo Casadiego; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Galvis] Three members of the National Police have been seriously implicated in the murder of three M-19 [19 April Movement] leaders in Bogota. General Carlos Arturo Casadiego, acting police director, what happened to these policemen and what led the police to believe that they are implicated in the crime?

[Casadiego] As a result of a National Police and their own investigative corps' investigation into the death of [M-19 leader] Afranio Parra Guzman, I personally placed policemen (Edison Canarete), (Felix Pabon Pabon), and (Manuel Vicente Naranjo) at the disposal of the Penal Military Arraignment Court No 58 judge today. There are strong suspicions that they committed the murders. They will have to answer to this before the law and, consequently, to Colombian society.

[Galvis] General, how would you describe the attitude of these policemen?

[Casadiego] Well, I think we would describe their actions as demented, because we cannot understand what could have driven these men to kill these people. However, it is up to the judge to explain the circumstances of the case.

[Galvis] We know that the three policemen are being held at the station and that police authorities have asked the Attorney General's Office to intervene in this case.

Peace Process To Continue

PA0904191189 Bogota Inravision Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 1812 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] The 19 April Movement [M-19] will not surrender, Carlos Pizarro Leongomez said today. This was the M-19 leader's reaction to the murder of Afranio Parra Guzman and two other M-19 militants. He also asked the government to hold the next working session at the Peace Village and to bury Parra Guzman there.

[Begin Pizarro Leongomez recording] The M-19 General Command is grateful for the solidarity our organization has received from all groups in the country. [end recording]

Meanwhile, it was learned that one of the three policemen charged with murdering Afranio Parra Guzman and two other M-19 members was drunk. Likewise, the M-19 members had not committed any crime and therefore their arrest was an abuse of authority, said General Carlos Arturo Casadiego, acting director of the National Police.

[Begin Casadiego recording] This is something done in a moment of insanity. One cannot explain why someone would do this. You know how difficult it is to judge people's behavior, much less to explain people's behavior. [end recording]

A new meeting between M-19 Commander Carlos Pizarro Leongomez and Rafael Pardo Rueda, presidential adviser for peace, will be held tomorrow in Santo Domingo.

Meanwhile, the Patriotic Union [UP] announced today at the end of its plenum that it will participate in the government's working session with the M-19. The UP had refused to participate for lack of political guarantees for its members. The UP announced it will participate in a bilateral relationship with the M-19, provided the government makes a stronger commitment to end the dirty war and to combat hired assassins. The announcement was made by UP Acting President Diego Montana at 1100 when the Eighth UP Plenum concluded.

[Begin Montana recording] We have begun a bilateral relationship with the M-19. We want to strengthen the working sessions, but we want the government to make a commitment. [end recording]

The UP is studying the possibility of participating in clean, honest elections. If the dirty war ends, UP leaders say, the UP will be able to campaign under the same conditions as the traditional parties. The UP voiced its solidarity with the M-19 and urged the latter to continue holding the working sessions for the sake of peace in Colombia.

Police Find Mass Graves, Many Corpses in Meta

PA0804192889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1807 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Two mass graves, containing more than 80 corpses, were found by the Administrative Security Department in Puerto Lopez, Meta Department. The hidden burial sites were discovered on Victor Carranza's ranch. It has been confirmed that a band of murderers operates in that area. Seventeen people have been detained.

Further Reportage on Graves

PA0904023689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2323 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Bogota, 8 Apr (EFE)—General Miguel Maza Marquez, director of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), officially reported today that at least 70 bodies were found on a farm in the country's eastern plains where paramilitary groups had a clandestine burial area for their victims.

Gen Maza made this disclosure to Bogota's Radio Cadena Caracol radio station.

The DAS chief added that on two farms, located between Puerto Lopez and Puerto Lleras, approximately 250 kms southeast of Bogota, agents discovered a "training center for hired killers at the service of drug traffickers," and several mass graves.

"We found pits where victims and weapons were buried. The weapons consisted of shotguns, rifles, and sophisticated communications equipment," Gen Maza told Caracol.

Gen Maza said that this discovery was made on one of the farms owned by rancher Victor Carranza, apparently a partner of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha—a well-known Medellin Cartel drug trafficker.

Pits were found on the farm where the paramilitary groups hid their weapons and buried their victims.

The officer connected these discoveries to the dismantling of a paramilitary group on 4 April in a neighborhood in southern Bogota. Ten killers were captured and another was killed during a raid by the authorities.

According to Caracol, Gen Maza said a criminal court judge in charge of investigating the case of the persons arrested in Bogota "was unnerved by the gruesome story told by one of the detainees," who confessed to some of the murders.

On Thursday, 6 April, Colombian President Virgilio Barco announced the creation of a special corps within the state security forces to fight paramilitary groups.

According to figures provided by the government, there are over 145 paramilitary groups in the country. The leftist Patriotic Union (UP) has reiterated that these groups are financed by drug traffickers and Army sectors, who are the perpetrators of the "dirty war."

In Colombia's "dirty war," the UP has paid the highest price with 725 of its members, including its first president Jaime Pardo Leal, killed since the group was founded as a political party in 1985.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister on Official Visit

PA0704164589 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera, who is visiting Colombia, has said relations between Colombia and Venezuela are at their best at present. It has also been reported that the two high commissioners will meet on 13 April to assess and try to find solutions to problems between the two countries.

Tejera arrived in Colombia on a 3-day official visit during which he will hold important meetings of interest to the two countries. These meetings come after the appointment of three commissions that Presidents Carlos Andres Perez and Virgilio Barco agreed to in Urena on 28 March.

Tejera first met with Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono, with whom Tejera talked about the commissions' work. The two ministers reaffirmed the need to reach accords beneficial for the two countries, because both countries need to develop their human resources and their industries to compete with developed nations.

[Begin Londono recording] Colombia and Venezuela have a very active border relationship. Naturally, problems arise at times because we are neighbors. These commissions were created to solve these problems and make this border relationship particularly beneficial so the two countries can set an example of integration for Latin America. [end recording]

The ministers later met at the Foreign Ministry, where the Venezuelan foreign minister and his delegation attended the swearing-in of the Colombian delegates to the border commission, which will deal with studies and agreements on the transit of people, goods, and vehicles and on economic integration in the border region. According to the agreement, the issues that will receive priority attention are generation of electricity, navigation on the Orinoco River in the area of the Apure and Maipures River branches, interconnection of electric energy systems, sugarcane harvesting and processing programs, and the in-depth exploration of the Guayana highlands.

Tejera was interviewed by Colombian and international reporters. He said two neighboring countries must be able to reach an agreement and added that, in this particular case, the foreign ministers will only be assistants to the high commissioners. The first meeting between the high commissioners is scheduled to be held on 13 April at a yet unspecified place. Tejera said he invited Londono to visit Caracas when President Perez will swear in the Venezuelan commissioners. Tejera underlined that relations between the two countries are at their best and that this had not happened for a long time.

Asked by a Colombian reporter on how Venezuela had received the assertion of former Colombian President Misael Pastrana Borrero, who called the Gulf of Venezuela the Coquibacoa Gulf, Tejera had this to say:

[Begin recording] [Tejera] Pastrana and I have been friends for many years, about 40. I was surprised to hear him use those words. But we regarded his assertion as a slip of the tongue from such a distinguished man. We will not attach political significance to his statement but will let it go at that. The use of the name Coquibacoa is a source of irritation in Venezuela, and it is not good for any of us to cause irritation at present.

[Reporter] What bearing do you think President Barco's remaining time in office will have on the course of the talks?

[Tejera] As part of the constitutional order that fortunately is in force in Colombia and Venezuela, our diplomacy is not conducted in a race against the clock but by means of cooperation between countries, not only between governments. [end recording]

Once the initial meeting was concluded, the Venezuelan officials went to the Narino Palace, where they met in private with Barco. Tejera reiterated to Barco the Venezuelan Government's confidence that the three commissions that will deal with bilateral problems will find solutions favorable to the two countries.

Another important aspect of Tejera's official visit is today's signing of a renewable 6-year technical and scientific cooperation agreement between Venezuela and Colombia.

Paraguay

Colorado President Opens Campaign at Rally

PY0805210089 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1404 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Speech by Colorado Party President Juan Ramon Chavez at a rally opening the Colorado Party election campaign, at Teniente Farina square in Caacupe—live]

[Text] Mr President of the Republic, General Andres Rodriguez; fellow Colorados: from this beautiful place I have the honor of addressing all the party members in name of the Colorado Party Executive Board. I am addressing you regarding the 1 May elections that will elect a president for our country, as well as 36 senators, 21 alternate senators, 72 deputies, and 42 alternate deputies. [applause]

In order for us to attract the votes of the people in the 1 May elections, the Paraguayan people, particularly the Colorado Party members, must be told why we are running for election and what our objectives are.

Brave workers, here is this austere citizen, General Andres Rodriguez, Colorado Party candidate [applause] for the Presidency for the 1988-93 [year as heard] term. He is here to talk to you, simply but with firmness, about the cause we defend and about the Paraguayan people's concerns.

There are also present many candidates for senator and deputy who, from the National Congress, will freely propose the necessary laws for the future of our country.

All Paraguayans know the reasons for the 3 February civilian and military action, when the people and the Army behaved with patriotism to eradicate from our country abuse of power and administrative corruption, as well as, above all, to establish respect for constitutional guarantees and human rights. [applause]

On 14 March 1989, the Colorado Party Executive Board unanimously proclaimed the candidacy of Gen Andres Rodriguez for president of the Republic. [applause] The Colorado Party convention of 1 April confirmed his candidacy and those of the senators and deputies.

Through these steps we are seeking to legalize all the national institutions that were discredited by the dictatorship overthrown on 3 February. [applause]

Gen Andres Rodriguez' 3 February proclamation stated that the country will not return to the path of political violence, and that the current administration will not overlook the people's main interests. This proclamation was made as an oath that seeks social peace and the greatness of our country. [applause]

There are two main problems that we will face and solve within our national possibilities: We will help all families and inhabitants to work calmly and with safety, [applause] and we will not turn away from our Christian faith because our party platform upholds Christian values. We will correct social injustices to remove peacefully all the obstacles that hinder the normal development of all the people. [applause]

The Colorado Party democratically requests all citizens to vote for our candidate on 1 May to comply with the following wishes of the people:

First, to approve a law stating the need to partially or totally reform the 1967 Constitution. [applause]

Second, to reform the Constitution so the president and vice president of the Republic cannot be reelected. [applause]

Third, to reform the current law No 886 on elections.

Fourth, to establish that a state of siege can only be declared by the National Congress. [applause]

Fifth, to abolish all the laws that undermine human dignity.

Sixth, to reform the labor codes.

Seventh, to approve a law permitting the free organization of labor unions, or to include this permission in the labor law. [applause]

Eighth, to approve a general law to organize and control the decentralized and independent state companies.

Ninth, to modernize and expedite the social security system. [applause]

Tenth, to approve an agrarian reform law. [applause]

Eleventh, to approve a law to prevent monetary inflation, which damages the national economy.

Twelfth, to approve a law increasing the assistance to Chaco War veterans. [applause]

Finally, to approve a broad political parties law, and a law to improve the electoral court system.

These wishes I have just enumerated are the result of the Colorado Party's position. The Colorado Party listens to the people and informs the public of everything it thinks and does in the political field. The Colorado Party never turns its back on the people, from whom we strive and give the best of our continual work to benefit everyone.

Since our party is completely democratic, we must educate the young members of our party to maintain democracy. [applause] We will give particular preference to the Colorado women. [applause] If we want to triumph in politics, we must first pay attention to women. [applause]

If a future administration achieves all these wishes, it will then justify itself, and the multiparty system will maintain its firmness as the backbone of [word indistinct] national progress.

We must recall that the sound basis of our national democratic life was established during the administration of our party founder, General Bernardino Caballero. He passed the first electoral law and sponsored the participation of our two traditional political parties: the Colorado and Liberal Parties. [applause]

From February to March 1989, nine political parties were organized. Several of them will run in the elections, because our opponents know the only weapon that can win the elections is votes.

Before I conclude, I wish to recall a thought that Gen Bernardino Caballero expressed at his villa in the park in 1886: The most beautiful task in politics is to organize a people without selfishness. We have already constructed this framework to strengthen democracy and the reign of social and individual happiness. [applause] Given this magnificent thought, let us all vote for our candidate on 1 May 1989. This is how we will serve democracy. Thank you. [applause]

President Rodriguez Opens Presidential Campaign

PY0805193089 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1509 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Speech by President Andres Rodriguez to open presidential campaign at Colorado Party rally in Caacupe—live]

[Excerpts] Juan Ramon Chaves, president of the Colorado Party Executive Board; distinguished and appreciated Colorado Party followers; citizens of my country: I have decided to begin my electoral campaign as presidential candidate of the Colorado Party in this legendary city of Caacupe, the spiritual capital of the Paraguayan nation.

I am here as a pilgrim who seeks to be illuminated and ask God's mother for strength to successfully confront [appalause] the responsibility of the presidency, if the people decide at the 1 May elections that I should be president.

I salute all my countrymen, regardless of their opinion or political affiliation. I stress I am only one more candidate in the democratic rebirth of our country [applause]. Today I must emphatically reiterate before this public assembly—the first in a series that will take me around the country—the objectives proclaimed on 3 February. Today I feel it is my duty to elaborate on them.

I will begin fulfilling a duty. I will begin by thanking again the firm and decisive support of my Armed Forces comrades who shared with me the decision to resort to arms to end, with the least damage and the highest probability of success, the growing deterioration of the public administration that was becoming increasingly catastrophic. [applause] [passage omitted]

We came out of our barracks to install a true democracy in Paraguay because the arbitrariness and authoritarianism displayed by some of the last regime's most important representatives did not represent true democracy. [applause]

The manifest descrimination and subjugation of our people every time they spoke up to demand their legitimate rights did not represent democracy either. [applause]

Those individuals who spoke from forums, the press, radio and television, and who mixed in the corridors of adulation and intrigue [applause] worked hard at the fateful task of spreading hate and disunity among Paraguayans and humiliating and trampling on the dignity of honorable people. [applause]

The way they used public funds was not democracy. [applause]

I want to clearly state that all trials against former officials of the last administration will continue until their role is totally clarified. [applause]

I have instructed the attorney general to do his utmost, and to apply the law with all severity against those guilty of embezzlement [applause] and those who used the powers of their office for personal gain. [applause]

We came out of the barracks to see that human rights are respected, because most human rights were viewed as nothing but trash during the last regime. We are indebted to our fatherland. Our country has been anxiously awaiting the building of a just and egalitarian society and the full respect of basic human rights. These things will be fully respected and promoted from now on. [applause] [passage omitted]

Citizens, it was absolutely necessary for the political party in government—which remained a prisoner of autocracy—to recover its full freedom, not to monopolize power, but to make of it a true instrument of the common good. [applause]

It would have been a grave mistake to do otherwise because the 3 February coup did not seek to change the political goals of a democratic party such as the National Republican Association-Colorado Party, but to overthrow those who were usurping the name of Bernardino Caballero [Colorado Party founder] for their own benefit. [applause]

Our national unity can only be attained through the unity of all political parties, including our party, for a common goal. Our party is currently assuming a big responsibility. Our people have suffered a lot throughout our history. We have suffered wars, desolation, disasters, civil wars, hate, and persecutions that hindered our progress and happiness.

We have had our share of bad governments. Many of our countrymen have felt the arbitrariness of those in power. We should never again see a repetition of this sad history. The only way to avoid it is to get ready to live in a democracy.

My dear fellow party members, and countrymen, I am optimistic. I think we can learn what democracy is. We will endeavor to practice this difficult but gratifying path. Let us begin now, right now, to respect, tolerate, understand, help, and get along with each other. [applause]

Let us honorably work for unity among the sons of this country we love so much. Unity does not mean uniformity. Unity does not necessarily mean we should have the same opinions or the same beliefs. Unity means love for the greatness and honor of our fatherland. [applause] [passage omitted]

Liberal Party, True Liberal Party Unite

PY0704185189 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Apr 89 p 4

[Text] Last night the Liberal Party and the True Liberal Party officially announced they are uniting. The announcement was made during a meeting leaders of both parties held at Liberal Party headquarters. A document setting the basis for unity was signed by all those present at the meeting.

The document says that the two parties will unite under the single banner of the Liberal Party "as a show of the continuity of the glorious party founded on 10 July 1987."

The document also says that True Liberal Party members will not contest in any election. The board of directors of this party will take the necessary measures to urge their members to support the Liberal Party ticket.

The document also establishes that a convention will be convened on 12 June 1989 to elect one unified list to the party's executive board. A unified party president will also be elected at this convention. The other positions will be distributed between the two parties.

The leaders also decided to submit a draft of new party regulations for approval by the convention.

The document establishes the following as party slogan: "freedom, equality, and fraternity" and "the true foundation of social justice."

The document is signed by Carlos Ferreira Ibarra, Joaquin Atilio Burgos, and Valeriano Mancuello representing the Libera Party, and Waldino Riveros and Fernando and Carlos A. Ruffinelli from the True Liberal Party.

Government Appoints State Council Members

PY0904002889 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Apr 89 p 11

[Text] Yesterday the government released Decree No 736, appointing the new members of the State Council. The members are: Brigadier General Trifon G. Lopez, retired, representing the Army; Captain Escolastico Escurra, retired, representing the Navy; General Luis A. Gonzalez Ravetti, representing the Air Force; Gualberto Yegros, representing the agricultural sector; Juan C. Wasmosy, representing the livestock sector; Roberto L. Antebi, representing industry; and Nicolas V. Gonzalez O., representing business.

Venezuela

Perez on Brady Plan, Meeting With Bush

PA0704164389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0507 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Caracas, 6 Apr (EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said today that according to the Brady Plan, Venezuela's foreign debt will not be reduced immediately but "probably within 2 years."

At a news conference, Perez pointed out that with the implementation of U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's plan, the debtor countries will not "eliminate the nightmare of the debt," but the debt will be restructured in such a way that development will not be hampered.

Perez said that he hopes that the Venezuelan foreign debt will be reduced by 50 percent, although he did not specify if the reduction would involve the country's total debt of approximately $30 billion, or only the public debt, which is approximately $26 billion.

Perez also pointed out that there is no definitive solution to the debt problem, admitting that "there are still some difficulties to be overcome" because "creditors are not pleased with the path that is being followed."

According to Perez, it is precisely the banks' reticence that is making relations "among our countries and the creditors difficult," to the point that a series of stopgap loans requested to resolve short-term financial problems has been blocked.

Perez admitted that reducing the foreign debt "is just one of the many battles we have to confront in order to obtain decent and respectful treatment for our nations." He expressed optimism, however, over the fact that the seven leading industrialized nations have endorsed the Brady plan and that therefore "paths are being opened for a solution" to the problem.

Perez also referred to meetings held last week between U.S. President George Bush and senior Perez administration officials, describing them as "extraordinary."

The Venezuelan president said that as a result of these discussions and other economic efforts, "our debt is going to be reduced by 50 percent and the service on the debt by more than 50 percent."

He added that "President Bush's new debt policy" will enable Venezuela to become "one of the first nations to enjoy this positive trend demonstrated by industrialized nations."

He later stressed that when he raised these topics in Washington, he did so with not only Venezuela but with "all of our Latin American compatriots" in mind. He noted that he is "sending a report to the presidents belonging to the Group of Eight—including Argentina,

Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay—to inform them of what we managed to obtain through these tremendously important meetings."

Maracaibo Placed Under Military Control

PA0704181189 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1725 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Caracas, 7 Apr (EFE)—The northwestern oil-rich city of Maracaibo was placed under military control this morning, sources in that region have reported. According to reports reaching the capital, rumors about plans of sabotage and attacks against the city's power installations and on public and private buildings are the reasons behind the military action.

First Infantry Division Commander General Fernando Ochoa Antich, the region's commander, said that the "Armed Forces Sovereignty" plan has been reactivated by request of Zulia State Governor Ismael Ordaz. Ochoa said that the plan's objective is to prevent riots and looting, and that the purpose of the Armed Forces' presence on the streets is "to let the people know perfectly well that there will be absolute calm."

On Thursday evening, the local population of Maracaibo, a city located 700 km from Caracas, staged a "civic blackout," which left the city without electricity for 15 minutes. The sources noted, however, that with the exception of the blackout, life in the city has been normal. On Monday there were some riots in Maracaibo when students took to the streets to protest a bus-fare increase.

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